Angel

5

ART & STORY BY
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tactics 5
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tactics

Sakura Kinoshita × Kazuko Higashiyama

5

MEMOIRS OF A DEMON-EATING TEENIE: THE FUJI TALES

KIYOHIME STAGE 5

KANBARINYUUDOU STAGE

PART I 87

PART II 123

SIDE STORY

KANTAROU AND MUU-CHAN'S KYOTO-WHERSHIPPING CHRONICLE

tactics

Volume 5
by Sakura Kinoshita and
Kazuko Higashiyama

tactics Volume 5

ART & STORY BY: Sakura Kinoshita × Kazuko Higashiyama

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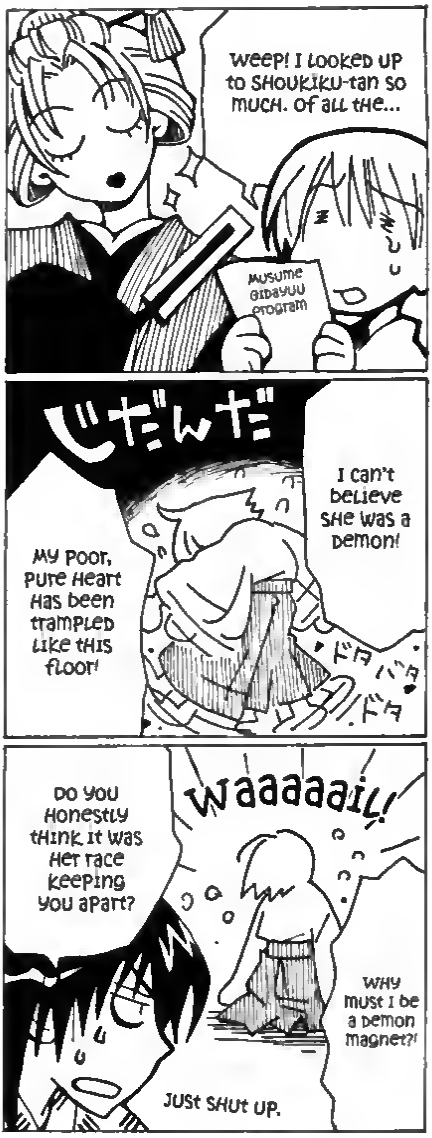
TO THE FLOWER THAT BLOOMS AND REFLECTS A LOVER IN THE LIGHT OF THE MOON, HUMANS AND DEMONS ARE NOT SO DIFFERENT. AND THUS BEGINS OUR PLAY...
"DEMON-EATING TENGU SHINOBUYO FUJI SOUSHI."
DO ENJOY.

DEMON-
EATING
TENGU
SHINOBUYO
FUJI SOUSHI
KIYOHIME
STAGE


Weep! I looked up to SHOUKIKU-tan so much. Of all the...
Musume Gidayuu program
じだんだ
I can't believe she was a demon!
My poor, pure heart has been trampled like this floor!
Waaaaaii!
Do you honestly think it was her race keeping you apart?
Why must I be a demon magnet?!
Just shut up.

tactics

GOOD WORK TODAY! THAT WAS QUITE A CROWD OUT THERE. AND ALMOST ALL OF THEM WERE HERE TO SEE YOU, MISS SHOUKIKU!
Takechiyo-za
EVERYONE'S SAYING THAT THE RECENT POPULARITY OF OUR BALLAD DRAMA RECITATIONS IS THANKS TO YOU MISS SHOUKIKU!
ER...NO, I DIDN'T MEAN...
I WISH I COULD HURRY UP AND BECOME A FULL-FLEDGED STAGE GIDAYUU.
THEN I COULD BE MORE LIKE YOU.
WELL, SHALL WE START YOUR TRAINING NOW, THEN?
I'M SURE YOU'RE TOO TIRED FOR THAT...
I'M FINE.
I'LL EVEN START BY LETTING YOU MEMORIZE YOUR FAVORITE, "DOUJOUJI GENZAI UROKO."

...YOUR FEELINGS STILL HAVEN'T CHANGED, KANTAROU?

I'M A STUBBORN GUY.

YOU KNOW THAT BETTER THAN ANY-ONE...
..DON'T YOU, MOTHER?

I'M SORRY I KEEP WORRYING YOU.
I'M NOT A BAD KID, I SWEAR.
I SUP-POSE...
ANYWAY, I'D BETTER BE OFF
カタン
THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE HEART ARE NOT UNCHANGEABLE.
REMEMBER THAT, KANTAROU.

YOU GOT ANOTHER COMMISSION TO EXTERMINATE A YOUKAI?!
THAT'S THE TENTH ONE IN A ROW!
BUT I DON'T WANT IT! I WANNA SIT IN MY PAJAMAS AND WRITE MY FOLKLORE THESIS!
Gyaaaah!
IT'S USUALLY THE OTHER WAY AROUND WITH YOU.
Oh really?
I... WANT... TO... PLAY!
I'M GOING TO PLAY WITH HARUKA!
I CALCULATED THE EARNINGS OF ALL THOSE COMMISSIONS. CONCLUSION: CHA-CHING!
BUT YOU CAN'T RUN FROM ME, KAN-CHAN!
YOU'RE POSSESSED! SOMEONE CALL AN EXORCIST!
HA! FOOL! HARUKA-CHAN WON'T PLAY WITH YOU.
NOW LET'S LEAVE HIM BE WHILE WE MAKE SOME CASH
NO! HARUKA!
PLAY WITH MEEE!

HM? SURE.
COME IN.
YOU CAN SIT THERE
DO YOU NEED A FLOOR PILLOW?
I'LL GET CANDY.
ALL RIGHT-- LET'S PLAY AND REMEMBER HOW NICE I AM.
.....

THESE GLASS THINGS ARE PRETTY. ♡
WAIT. THOSE LOOK NEW, HARUKA
HUH? WHAT'S ALL THIS, HARUKA-CHAN?
SUDDENLY SERIOUS!
I CAN'T BE CAGED, THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
HMPH.
SINCE YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO GO OUT, I WONDER HOW THESE GOT HERE?
OH, YOU BAD LITTLE BOY. ♡
NEVER MIND-- I'M SORRY! JUST GIVE ME BACK MY TEA BOWL!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU, HARUKA!

BUT ANYWAY, I SAVED A WOMAN FROM SOME MAN ON HER WAY HOME ONE NIGHT, AND SINCE THEN SHE'S ASKED ME TO BE HER BODYGUARD.
SHE REWARDS ME WITH SHINY THINGS.
YOU'VE BEEN OUT STALKING AT NIGHT? SINCE WHEN?!
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO STAY FIRMLY ATTACHED TO MY HIP!
But you drive me insane.
NO, NO, NO!
WE'RE WASTING TIME AGAIN
YOU NEVER LEARN, HARUKA!
STOP COMPLAINING-- I DION'T ASK YOU TO COME.
I'M DOING THIS FOR YOU, HARUKA! IT SOUNDS TO ME LIKE THIS WOMAN'S TAKING ADVANTAGE OF--
HERE SHE COMES

I'M SORRY I'M LATE, HARUKA-SAN
MY TRAINING RAN LONGER THAN EXPECTED.
NOT AT ALL. WE WEREN'T REALLY WAITING.
SHE'S... CUTE!
OH? I SEE WE HAVE GUESTS...
HELLO THERE! I'M KANTAROU ICHINOMIYA, A FRIEND OF HARUKA'S.
I'M YURI KURAMAE. I OWE HARUKA-SAN SO MUCH FOR ALL HIS HELP!

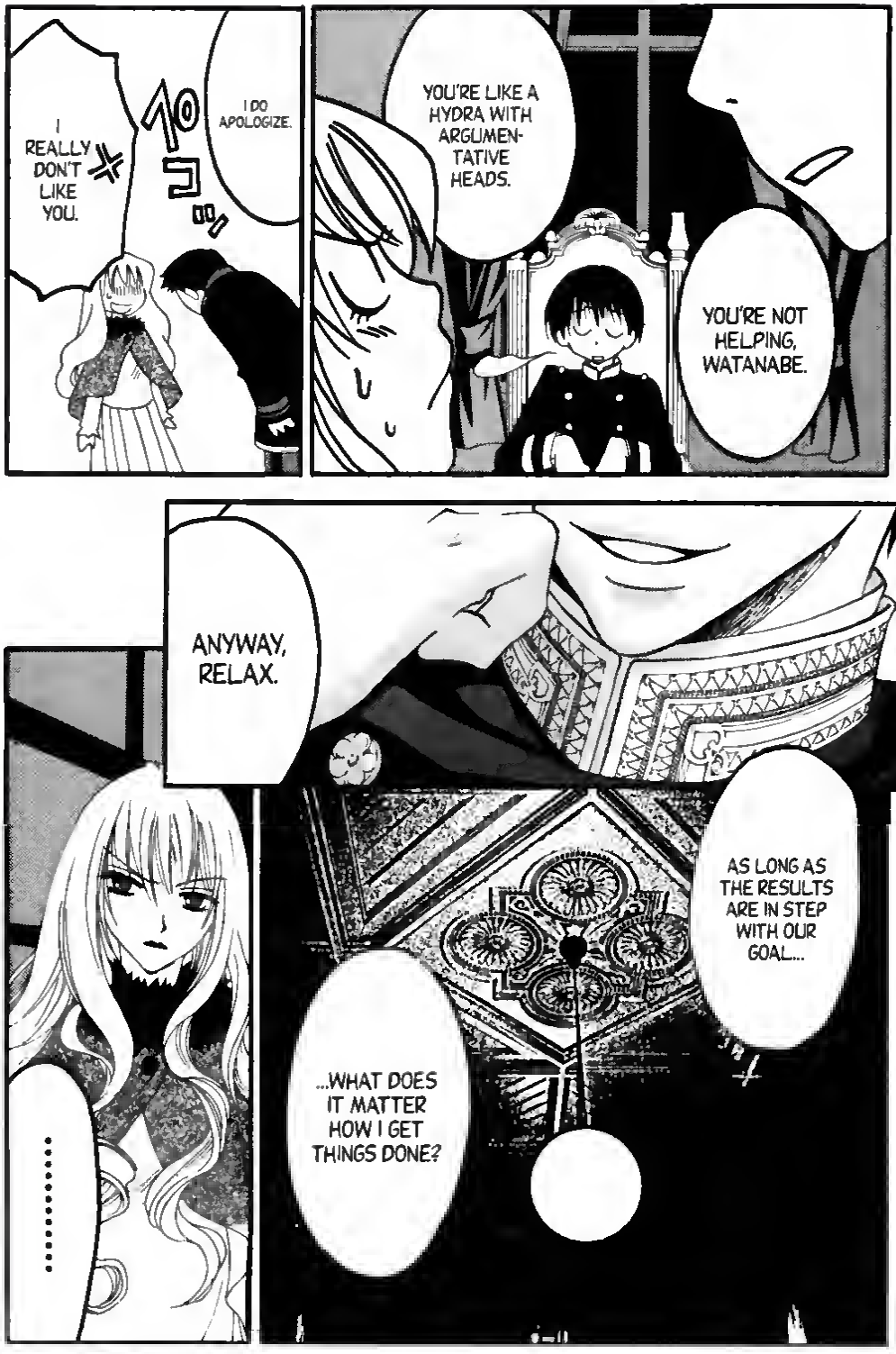
WELL, I'M APPRENTICING FOR A THEATRE POSITION RIGHT NOW
I CAN'T REALLY HELP THAT IT ENDS SO LATE.
TO BE HONEST, YURI-SAN. .A GIRL YOUR AGE JUST SHOULON'T BE OUT AT THIS HOUR IT ISN'T SAFE
ARE YOU SURE YOU CAN'T GO HOME ANY EARLIER?
I'M SORRY. BUT HARUKA SHOULDN'T BE OUT. EITH—

JUST PROMISE ME ONE THING, HARUKA! ONCE YOU'RE DONE ESCORTING HER, YOU COME RIGHT BACK HOME.
GOT THAT?
...FINE.
FINE. FINE! YOU TWO WIN.
I CAN'T EXACTLY DENY A GIRL HER SAFETY.
IS THAT ALL?
WOW, KAN-CHAN. YOU SURE GAVE IN QUICK
AND I'M FEELING SYMPATHETIC.
I DIDN'T BREAK HARUKA'S SEAL SO HE COULD BE IMPRISONED AGAIN.

TONIGHT'S PERFORMANCE WAS SUPERB
GOOD WORK, SHOUKIKU.

OR SHOULD I SAY...
...DOUJI IBARAGI
IT'S RUDE TO ENTER SOMEONE'S ROOM WITHOUT HER PERMISSION.
PLEASE. LET'S NOT FORGET THAT THIS IS MY HOUSE.
DON'T PRESS YOUR LUCK, BOY.

YOU NEED TO WAIT FOR ORDERS FROM HIM BEFORE--
PARDON ME.
YOU'VE BEEN DANGEROUSLY FORWARD LATELY
WHY DID YOU INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO THE TENGU AND ICHINOMIYA?
IF YOU CONSIDER YESTERDAY A MISTAKE, THEN I, SUEKICHINOBU WATANABE, TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY AND THOROUGHLY APOLOGIZE.
BUT I ALSO ASK THAT YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT MY MASTER RAIKOU MINAMOTO WAS THINKING.
I'LL HAVE TO ASK YOU TO STEP AWAY FROM THE MASTER, LADY IBARAGI.
WATANABE!
AND IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT IF THAT LEADER WERE TO PASS AWAY THE PEOPLE WOULD BE LEFT WITH COMPLETE INDEPENDENT FREEDOM-- WHICH WOULD BE IDEAL, BUT ONLY FOR A BRIEF TIME. SUCH FREEDOM WOULD BE DEVOID OF BOTH SECURITY AND ORDER AND IS ONLY A SHADOW OF WHAT PEOPLE TRULY--
LISTENING TO EACH AND EVERY OPINION IS DIFFICULT AND THE SYSTEM IS SUCH THAT A LEADER WITH THE FINAL WORD IS NECESSARY BUT SINCE PEOPLE ARE DESTINED TO DISAGREE, THAT CAN LEAD TO A LEADER BEING DEMONIZED REGARDLESS OF THE IMPORTANCE OF RETAINING ORDER

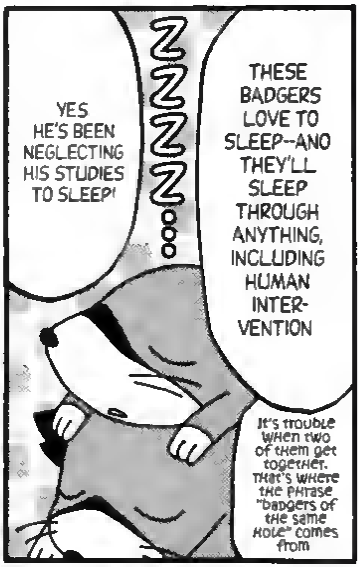

I DO APOLOGIZE.
I REALLY DON'T LIKE YOU.
YOU'RE LIKE A HYDRA WITH ARGUMENTATIVE HEADS.
YOU'RE NOT HELPING, WATANABE.
ANYWAY, RELAX.
AS LONG AS THE RESULTS ARE IN STEP WITH OUR GOAL...
...WHAT DOES IT MATTER HOW I GET THINGS DONE?
.....

OUR GOAL...
...IS TO OFFER THE DEMON-EATING TENGU TO THAT MAN.
YOU LEFT ME OUT LAST TIME, SO NOW I PLAN TO CONTINUE THIS ALONE.
KNOCK YOURSELF OUT.
BUT LET ME WARN YOU.

HE'S NOT EXACTLY EASY TO CAGE.
うん
PLEASE, SENSEI... CAN YOU HELP MY SON?
SURE.
POSSESSIVE SPIRITS ARE EVERYWHERE THESE DAYS.
I AGREE MA'AM. I'VE HAD THREE OTHER CASES TODAY
MY SON'S ALWAYS BEEN SUSCEPTIBLE TO STRANGE THINGS...
—BUT IT'S BEEN SO MUCH WORSE LATELY. OIO I SPOIL HIM TO THE POINT WHERE HE CAN'T OEFENO HIMSELF?

SNOOOOORE
くぉぉぉ
AND BY BADGERS. LOVELY.
BUT THAT'S A PRETTY SOLID CASE OF POSSESSION RIGHT THERE.
おぉぉ

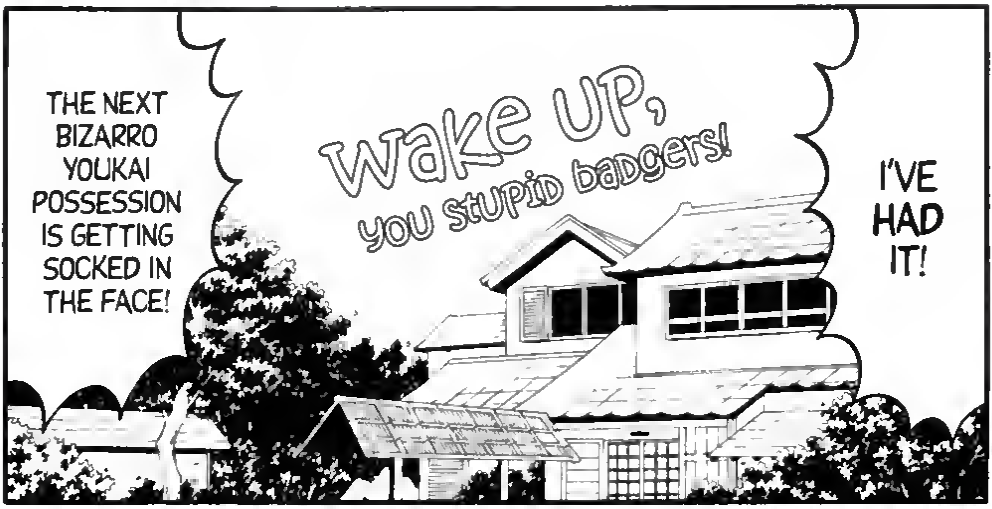
I'LL PERSUADE THE BADGERS TO RELEASE HIM, MA'AM.
SLAM
OF COURSE! THANK YOU SO MUCH!
BUT I'LL HAVE TO ASK THAT YOU LEAVE US ALONE FOR A BIT.


THESE BADGERS LOVE TO SLEEP--AND THEY'LL SLEEP THROUGH ANYTHING, INCLUDING HUMAN INTER-VENTION
ZZZZooo
YES HE'S BEEN NEGLECTING HIS STUDIES TO SLEEP!
It's trouble when two of them get together. That's where the phrase "badgers of the same hole" comes from

SENSEI, PLEASE SAVE MY SON HAVING TO REPEAT THE YEAR!
あぅ
HE MAY FAIL SCHOOL!

RISE AND SHINE, GODDAMMIT! GET OUT OF HERE--I'M COMPLETELY ZONKED AND WANNA GO HOME!
I EVEN BUMPED INTO A SHIROLINERI, AND THEN I HAD TO CLEAN EVERYTHING IN SIGHT. TWICE!
★PERSUASION
MY FIRST CASE WAS A NEKOMATA WHO WOULDN'T STOP BRAGGING ABOUT ITSELF.
THEN A JAMI POISONED ME, AND I HAD TO GET THAT FIXED.
...
...

tactics 5


THE NEXT BIZARRO YOUKAI POSSESSION IS GETTING SOCKED IN THE FACE!
Wake up, you stupid badgers!
I'VE HAD IT!

HARUKA-SAN!
I'M SORRY I'M LATE AGAIN!
I DON'T CARE--I WAS TAKING A WALK ANYWAY.
BUT WHY EXACTLY DOES YOUR JOB GO SO LATE INTO THE NIGHT?
LOOK OVER HERE, HARUKA-SAN.

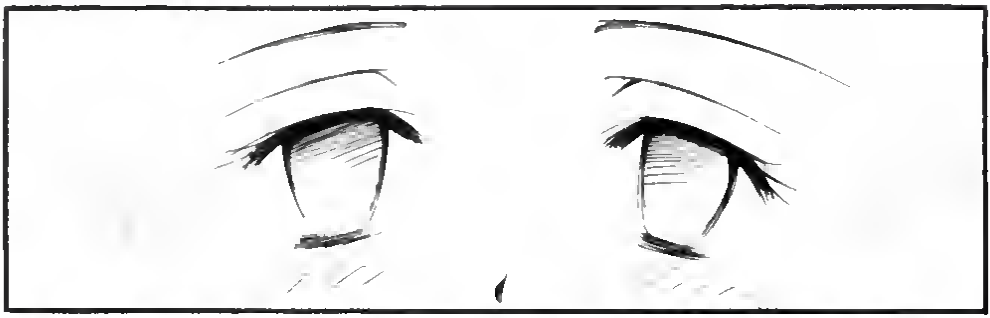
Takechiyo-za
I'M TRAINING TO BE A MUSUME GIDAYUU
SINCE I HELP CLEAN UP THE STAGE AND AID MY SENPAI IT KEEPS ME OUT UNTIL LATE
.....
.WHAT'S A GIDAYUU?
HN.
SOME EVEN SKIP SCHOOL FOR OUR SHOWS AND END UP IN REFORMATORY CLASSES.
THEY WERE ALL HERE FOR TONIGHT?
THOSE FANS HAVE CAUSED PROBLEMS AS FAR AS THE HARBOR
ORIGINALLY, DRAMA NARRATORS FOR PUPPET PLAYS WERE THE PERFORMERS, ACCOMPANIED BY SHAMISEN.
WHEN A FEMALE DID THE NARRATION, THEY CALLED HER A "WOMAN GIDAYUU." SO THE TERM "MUSUME GIDAYUU" IS FOR A YOUNG GIRL ACTING AS THE STORYTELLER.

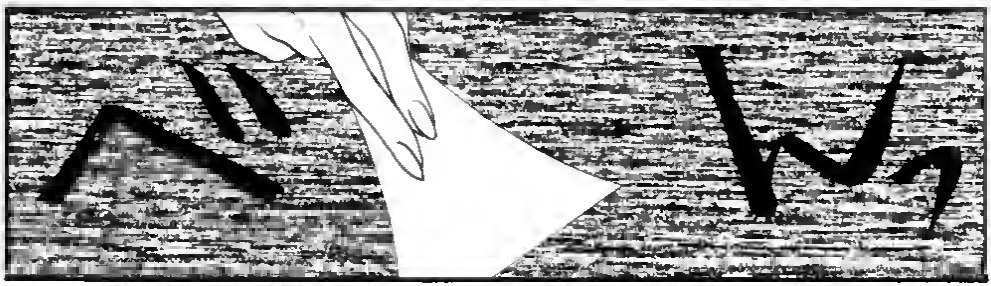
LET'S GO.
THAT BOY OVER THERE IS STARING AT YOU.
BE CAREFUL.
UM... OKAY.

THANK YOU FOR ESCORTING ME.
RIGHT.
ER... HARUKA-SAN?
PLEASE COME IN.
I'LL POUR US SOME TEA.

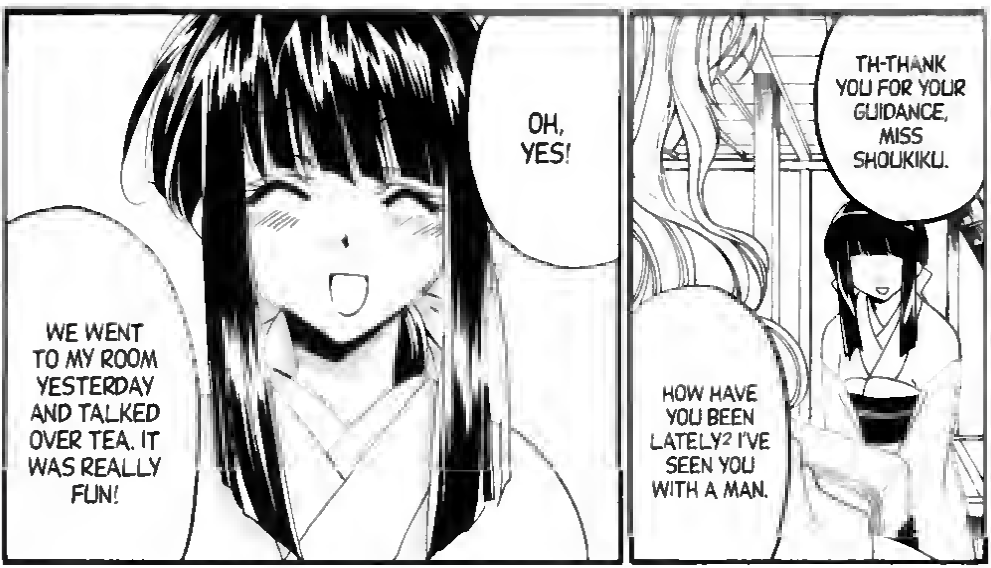
I ALREADY PROMISED TO GO BACK TO KANTAROU WHEN I WAS DONE HERE.
WE COME IN AT THE MIDDLE OF THE STORY... ON HIS WAY TO THE KUMANO TEMPLE, THE MONK ANCHIN STOPPED IN A SMALL VILLAGE. THE LEADER OF THE VILLAGE PERSUADED ANCHIN TO SPEND THE NIGHT WITH THE MAN AND HIS DAUGHTER, KIYOHIME.
KIYOHIME BEGGED FOR ANCHIN TO STAY FOR MORE THAN THAT ONE NIGHT, BUT HE DECLINED, STATING THAT HE HAD TO CONTINUE ON HIS PILGRIMAGE, AS THE TEMPLE WAS SHOWING A STATUE THAT WAS ONLY AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING EVERY 33 YEARS. IN ORDER TO APPEASE KIYOHIME, ANCHIN PROMISED THAT HE WOULD STAY AGAIN ON HIS RETURN TRIP HOME

KIYOHIME AGREED, AND EAGERLY WAITED FOR HIS RETURN. SHE WOULD SIT UNDER THE CHERRY BLOSSOM TREE AND RECALL HOW SHE HAD FIRST FALLEN IN LOVE WITH HIM.
HOWEVER, INSTEAD OF RETURNING TO VISIT KIYOHIME, ANCHIN TOOK A DIFFERENT ROUTE BACK, AS HER FEELINGS WERE NOT RETURNED.





OH!


TH-THANK YOU FOR YOUR GUIDANCE, MISS SHOUKIKU.
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN LATELY? I'VE SEEN YOU WITH A MAN.
OH, YES!
WE WENT TO MY ROOM YESTERDAY AND TALKED OVER TEA. IT WAS REALLY FUN!

御前
HEY, KAN-CHAN! I THINK YOU EARNED YOURSELF A TEA BREAK.
AND THEN WE'RE OFF TO OUR NEXT JOB!
ドドド

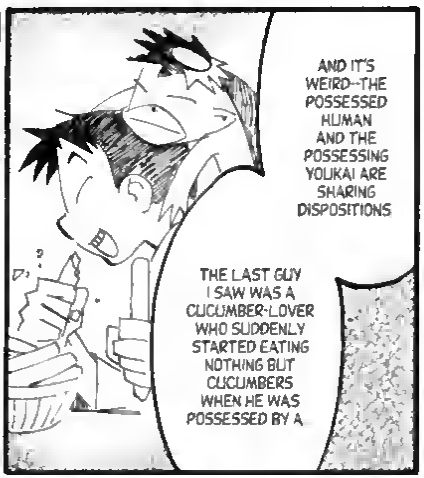
ﾌﾟﾆｭ
ﾌﾟﾆｭ

I'M FINE WITH THE YOUKAI-- IT'S THE HUMANS I CAN'T TAKE.
THEY'RE HARD-HEADED, SELFISH AND UNCOMPROMISINGLY STUPID.

I'm not going anywhere! I'm tired!
AH, SHUT UP.
YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY YOU GET TO MEET SO MANY YOUKAI!

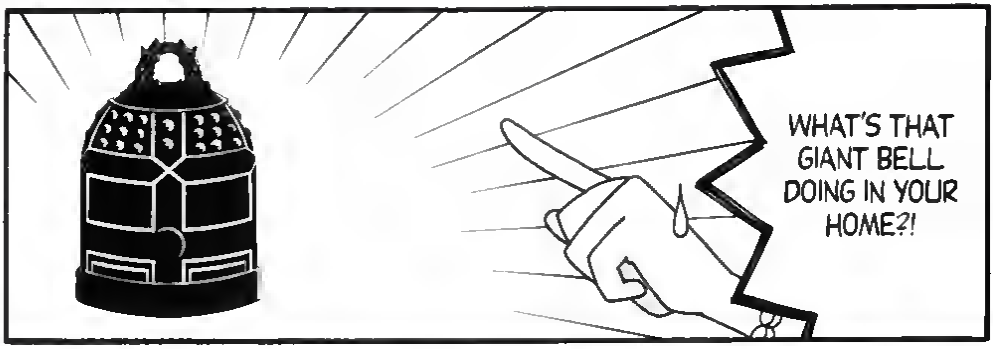
SINCE WHEN DO KAPPA POSSESS PEOPLE, ANYWAY?
EXCUSE MEEEE?

HM?


AND IT'S WEIRD--THE POSSESSED HUMAN AND THE POSSESSING YOUKAI ARE SHARING DISPOSITIONS
THE LAST GUY I SAW WAS A CUCUMBER-LOVER WHO SUDDENLY STARTED EATING NOTHING BUT CUCUMBERS WHEN HE WAS POSSESSED BY A

SENSEI... IT'S MY SON AGAIN.
ZZZZ...
ZZZ
ZZZ
WAKE UP, YOU WASTE OF SPACE!
IF THIS KEEPS HAPPENING, YOU HAVE TO LOOK AROUND YOUR HOUSE TO FIND THE SOURCE OF YOUR POSSESSION
DO YOU HAVE ANY PLACE WHERE BADGERS COULD GET IN, FOR EXAMPLE?
HM... NOT THAT I KNOW OF.
WAIT!

tactics 5


WHAT'S THAT GIANT BELL DOING IN YOUR HOME?!

THIS PROP IS FROM THE PLAY "DOUJOUJI"
OH, HA HA! MY OLD MAN LIKES NOH, SO HE BOUGHT THIS LARGE-SCALE STAGE PROP FOR FUN STUPID, HUH? AND HE'S GOT LOTS MORE
A YOUNG GIRL NAMED KIYOHIME MEETS A TRAVELING PRIEST AND FALLS IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT. BUT SINCE THE PRIEST HAS A FIANCÉE, KIYOHIME'S LOVE ISN'T RETURNED.
THEN, UNFORTUNATELY, KIYOHIME BECOMES A GIANT SERPENT DEMON BECAUSE OF HER INSANE JEALOUSY. THE PRIEST RUNS UNDER THE BELL OF DOUJOUJI TO HIDE FROM HER, BUT SHE BURNS IT, AND HE DIES. THE END.
"DOUJOUJI"
THE STORY OF THE DEMON WOMAN KIYOHIME.
IT'S A PARTICULARLY PLEASANT TALE OF LOST LOVE

HERE...THIS IS MY THANKS FOR YOU TODAY.
IT'S A BROOCH SHOWING SPRING-BLOOMING PEACH FLOWERS. I TRIED TO GET SOMETHING APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR NAME, HARUKA-SAN
PLEASE ACCEPT IT.
...KEEP IT.
I DON'T WANT ANYTHING FROM YOU IF IT HAS TO DO WITH MY NAME.
MY NAME?
YES. I LOVE YOUR BEAUTIFUL NAME.

MY NAME ISN'T SOMETHING TO BE TREATED SO CASUALLY.
HARUKA.

YOU WOULD'VE JUST USED MY NAME TO FORCE ME HOME IF I HADN'T.
THANK YOU FOR KEEPING YOUR PROMISE.
LUCKY ME.
TOO TRUE! I'LL HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT
DO YOU THINK YOU'VE GOTTEN USED TO THE NAME HARUKA?

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE GLAD YOU NAMED ME HARUKA?
HEY...
HARUKA IS...
...HARUKA

"BECAUSE YOU'RE FAR STRONGER THAN DEMONS HARUKA"
HUNH...

THAT DOESN'T SUIT ME AT ALL THESE DAYS.
I... NEED TO GO SOON.

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?!
HARUKA-SAN, GOOD LUCK!
.....
?!

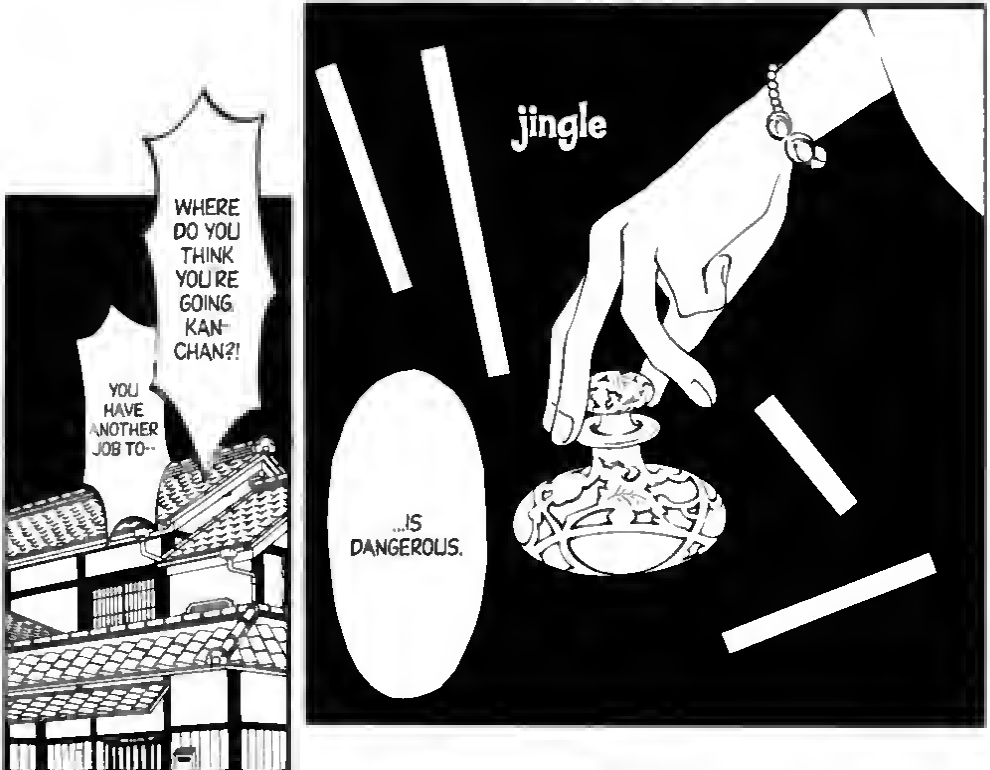
YOU SHOULD'VE RUN WHEN YOU HAD THE CHANCE.
Yeek!
sploosh
I KNEW I WAS STILL BEING TARGETED!
I NEED YOU, HARUKA-SAN! WITHOUT YOU, I--

THIS IS THE LAST NIGHT I'LL ESCORT YOU.
YOU HIRED THAT MAN, DIDN'T YOU?
HE CAME RIGHT FOR ME, WITHOUT EVEN LOOKING AT YOU.
WE JUST MET! HOW THE HELL WOULD WE--
BUT WAIT!
WH-WHY WOULD YOU ACCUSE ME OF THAT?
AREN'T YOU AND I LOVERS?

YOU TOLD ME THAT YOU LOVED ME!

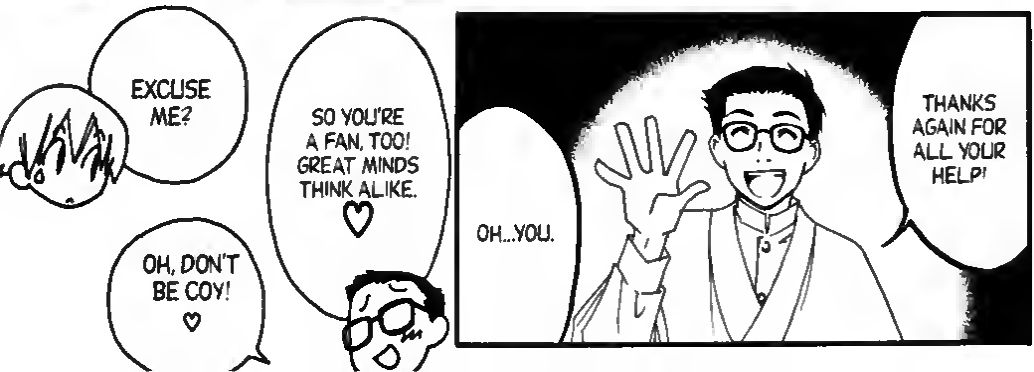
HM? I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU TO STAY HOME TONIGHT, HARUKA

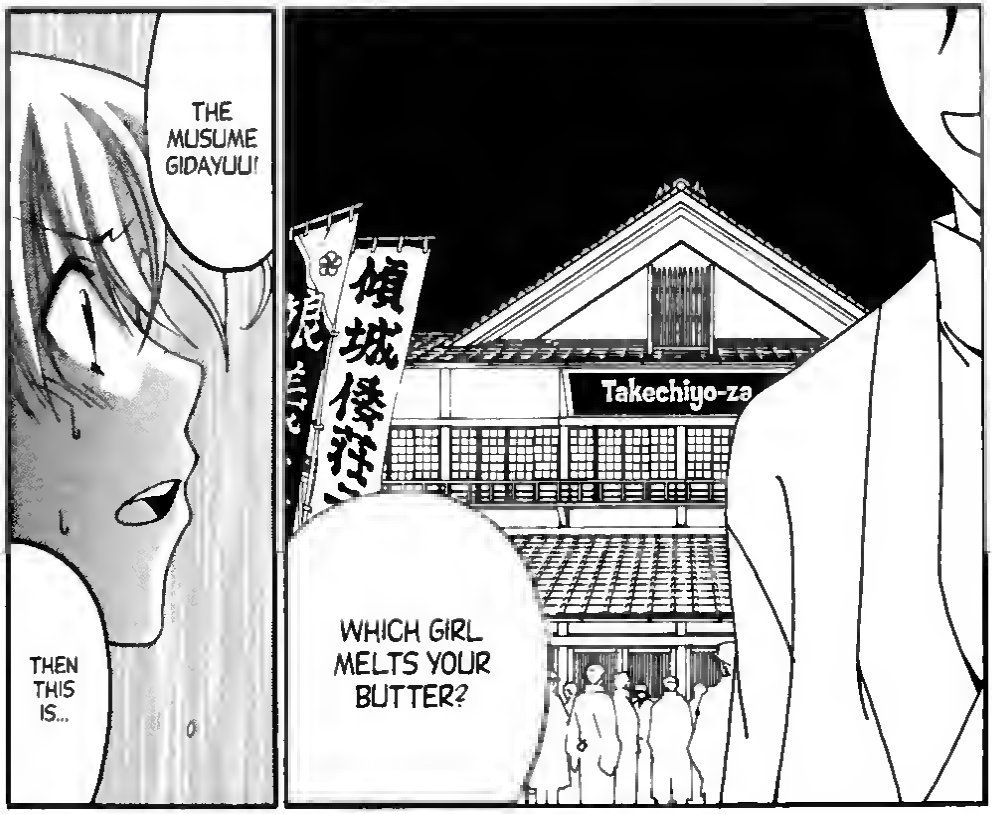
THAT WOMAN...
SHE WAS PRETTY GENEROUS WITH ALL HER LITTLE GIFTS, HARUKA.
WELL...I HOPE YURI-CHAN'S OKAY ON HER OWN.
I ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT I QUIT.

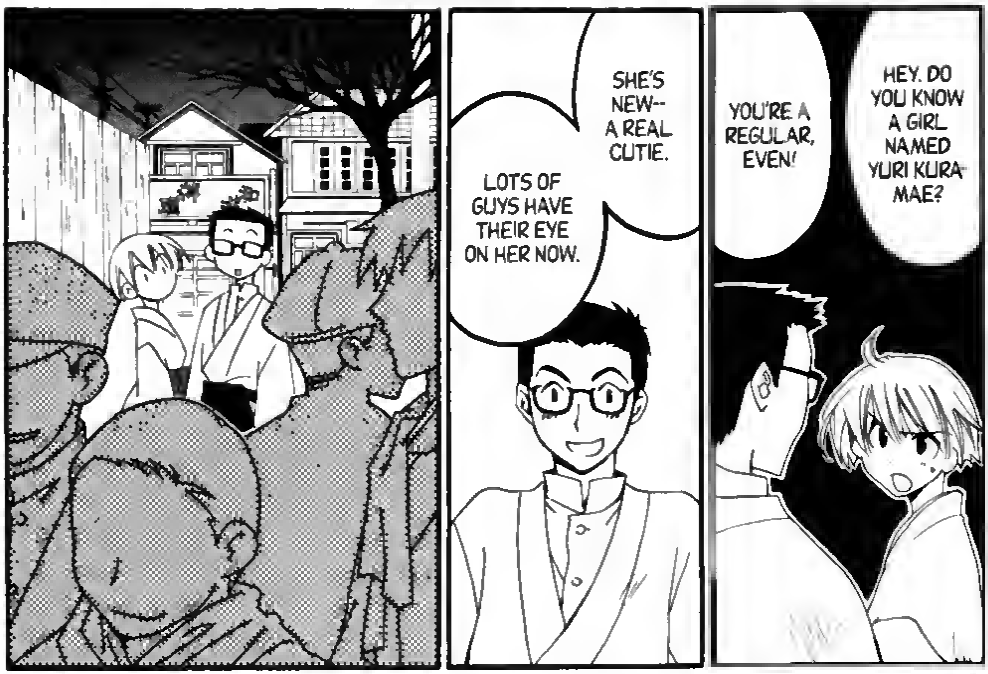

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING, KAN-CHAN?!
YOU HAVE ANOTHER JOB TO--
jingle
...IS DANGEROUS.

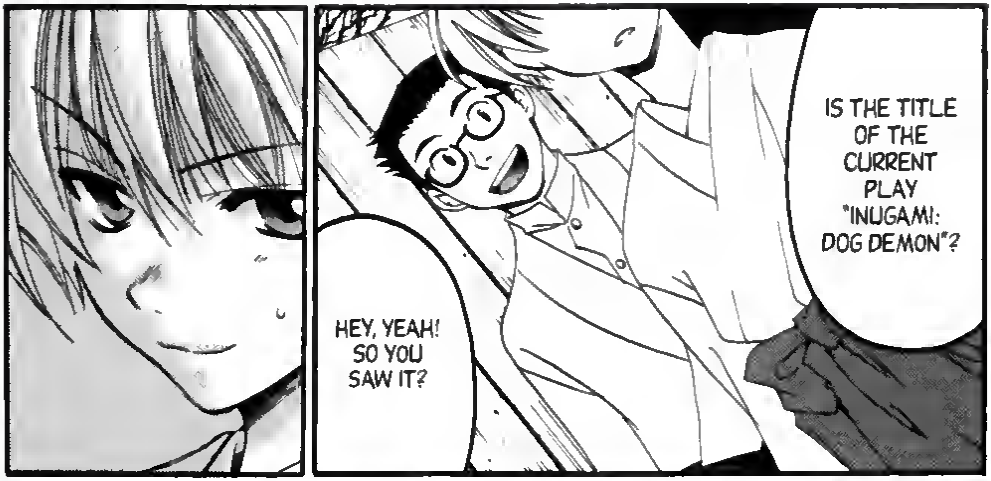
...HN.
ATGH.

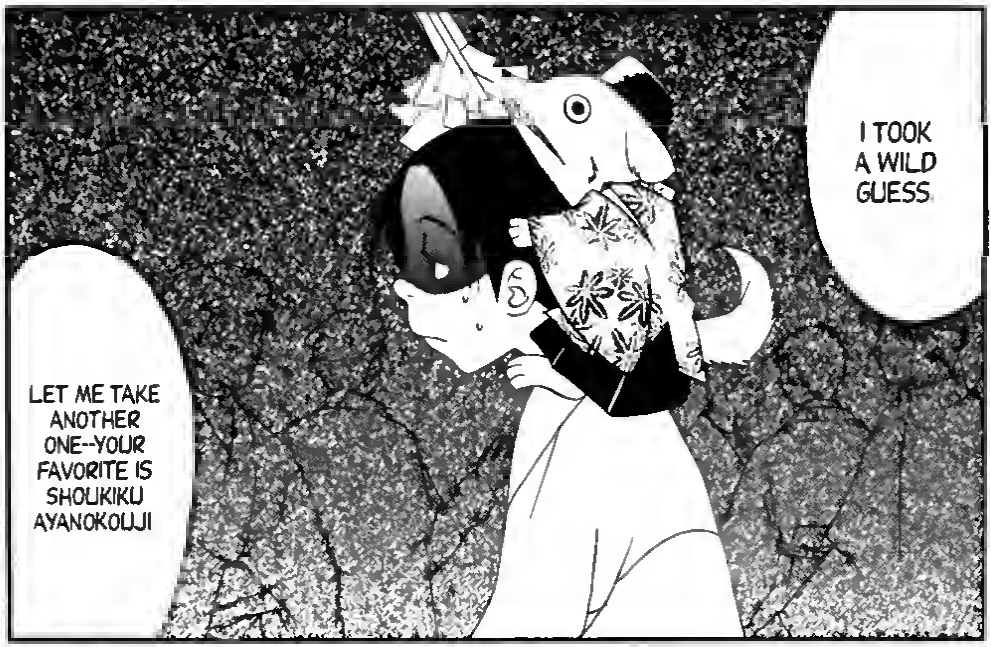
WELL, IF IT ISN'T ICHINOMIYA-SENSEI!
I THINK HARUKA USUALLY MET HER HERE
WAS THIS THE PLACE?
CHILD

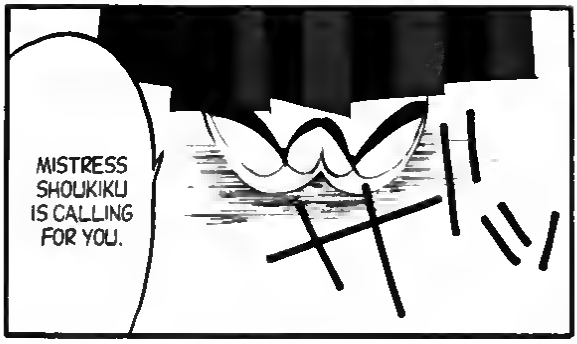

EXCUSE ME?
OH, DON'T BE COY! ♡
SO YOU'RE A FAN, TOO! GREAT MINDS THINK ALIKE. ♡
OH...YOU.
THANKS AGAIN FOR ALL YOUR HELP!


THE MUSUME GIDAYUU!
THEN THIS IS...
Takechiyo-za
WHICH GIRL MELTS YOUR BUTTER?


SHE'S NEW-- A REAL CUTIE.
LOTS OF GUYS HAVE THEIR EYE ON HER NOW.
YOU'RE A REGULAR, EVEN!
HEY. DO YOU KNOW A GIRL NAMED YURI KURAMAE?

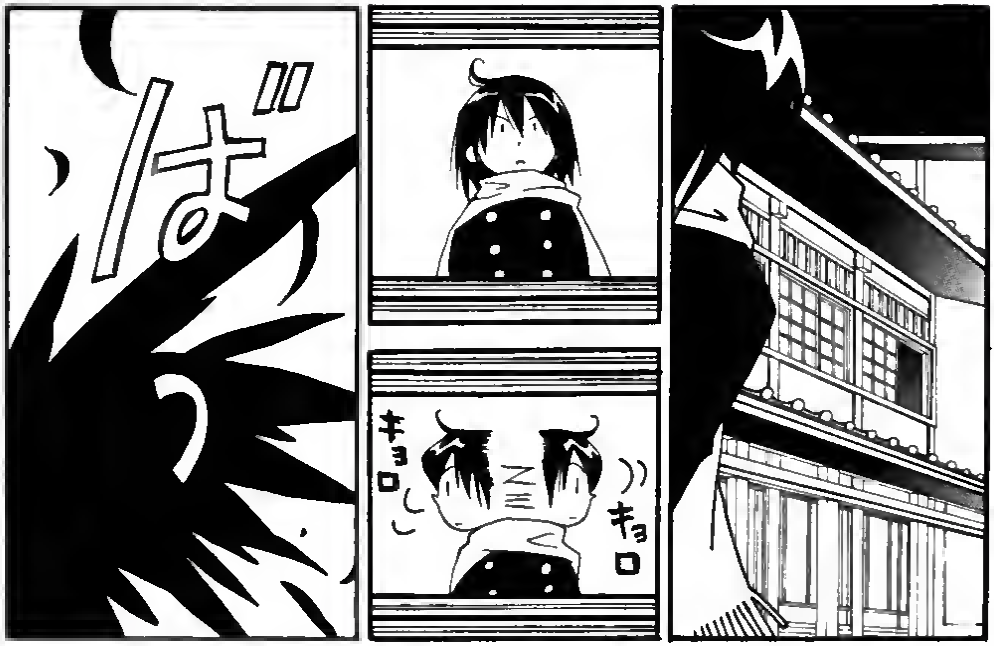

IS THE TITLE OF THE CURRENT PLAY "INUGAMI: DOG DEMON"?
HEY, YEAH! SO YOU SAW IT?


I TOOK A WILD GUESS.
LET ME TAKE ANOTHER ONE--YOUR FAVORITE IS SHOUKIKU AYANOKOUJI


MISTRESS SHOUKIKU IS CALLING FOR YOU.

MASTER ICHINOMIYA?
JEEZ! AM I THAT OBVIOUS?

WHAT?! Y-YOU KNOW SHOUKIKU-TAN, ICHINOMIYA-SENSEI!? I'M SO JEALOUS!
COME ON IN.
SHE'S WAITING.
ピシャ!!
TAKE ME WITH YOU!
SENSEI, DON'T LEEEEAVE!
DID KANTAROU ALREADY GO INSIDE?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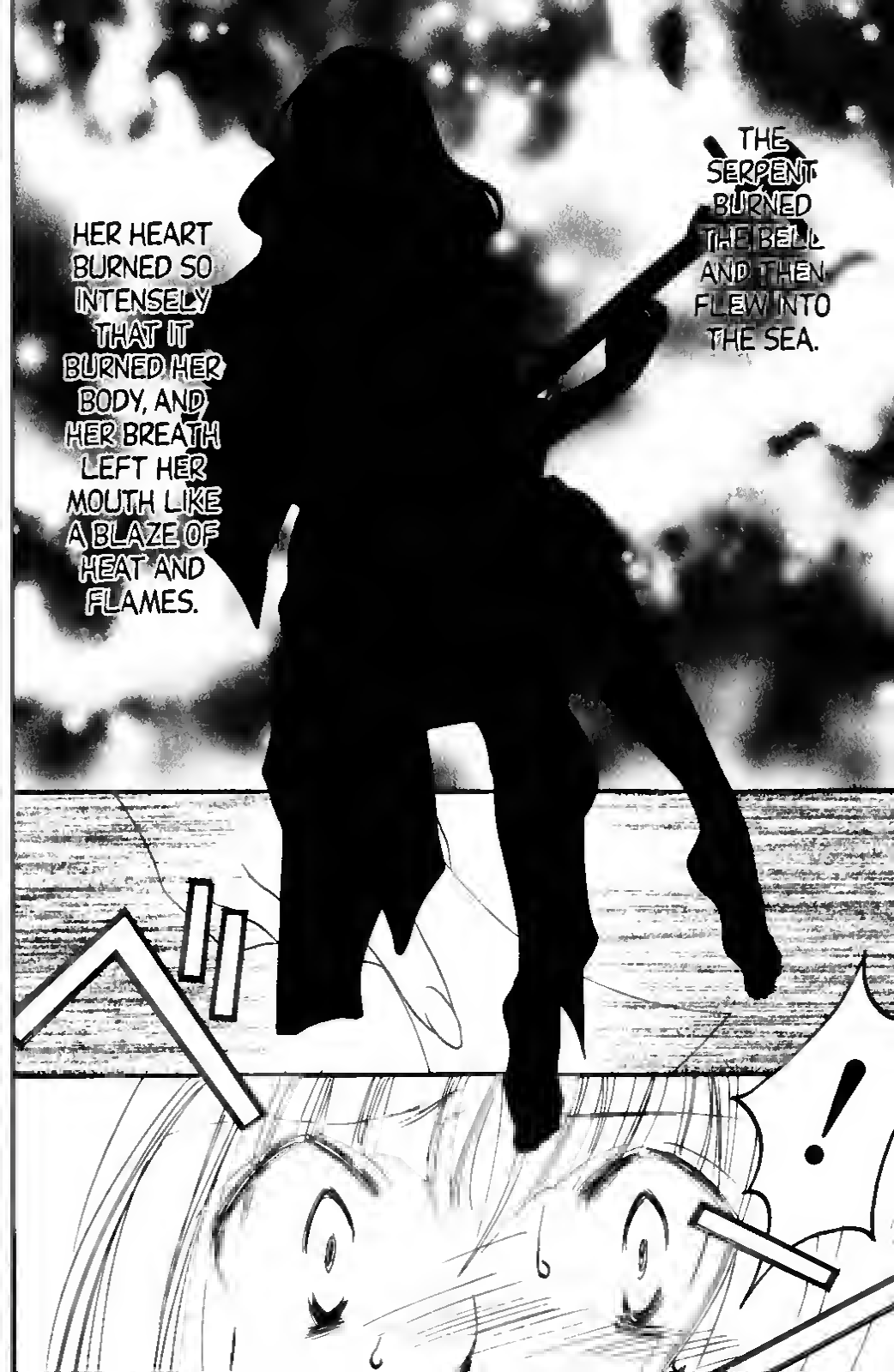
キョロ

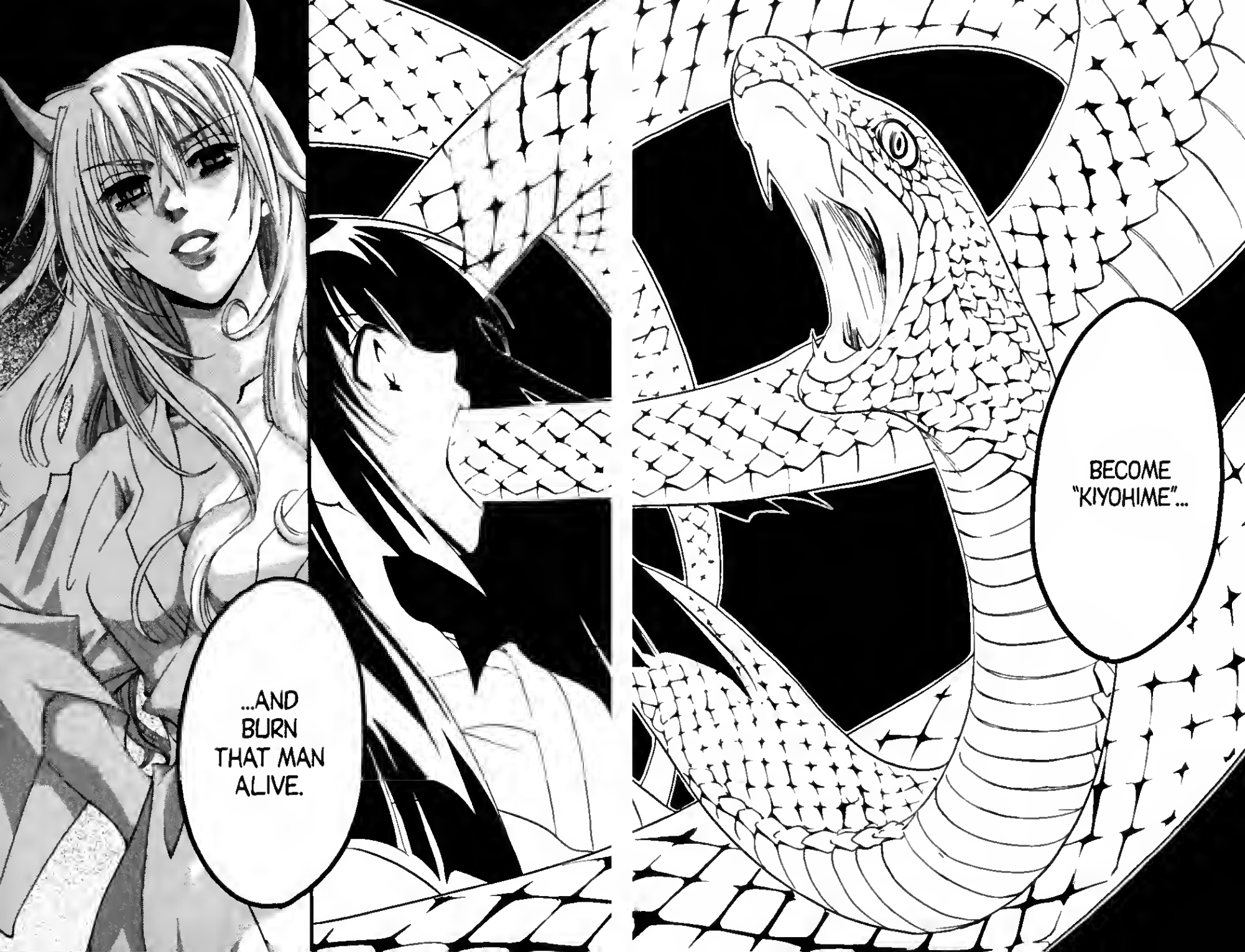
SUGOU
MISS SHOUKIKU...
PLEASE SING ME "DOUJOUJI."
JUST LISTENING TO THAT STORY CALMS ME DOWN
ALL RIGHT.

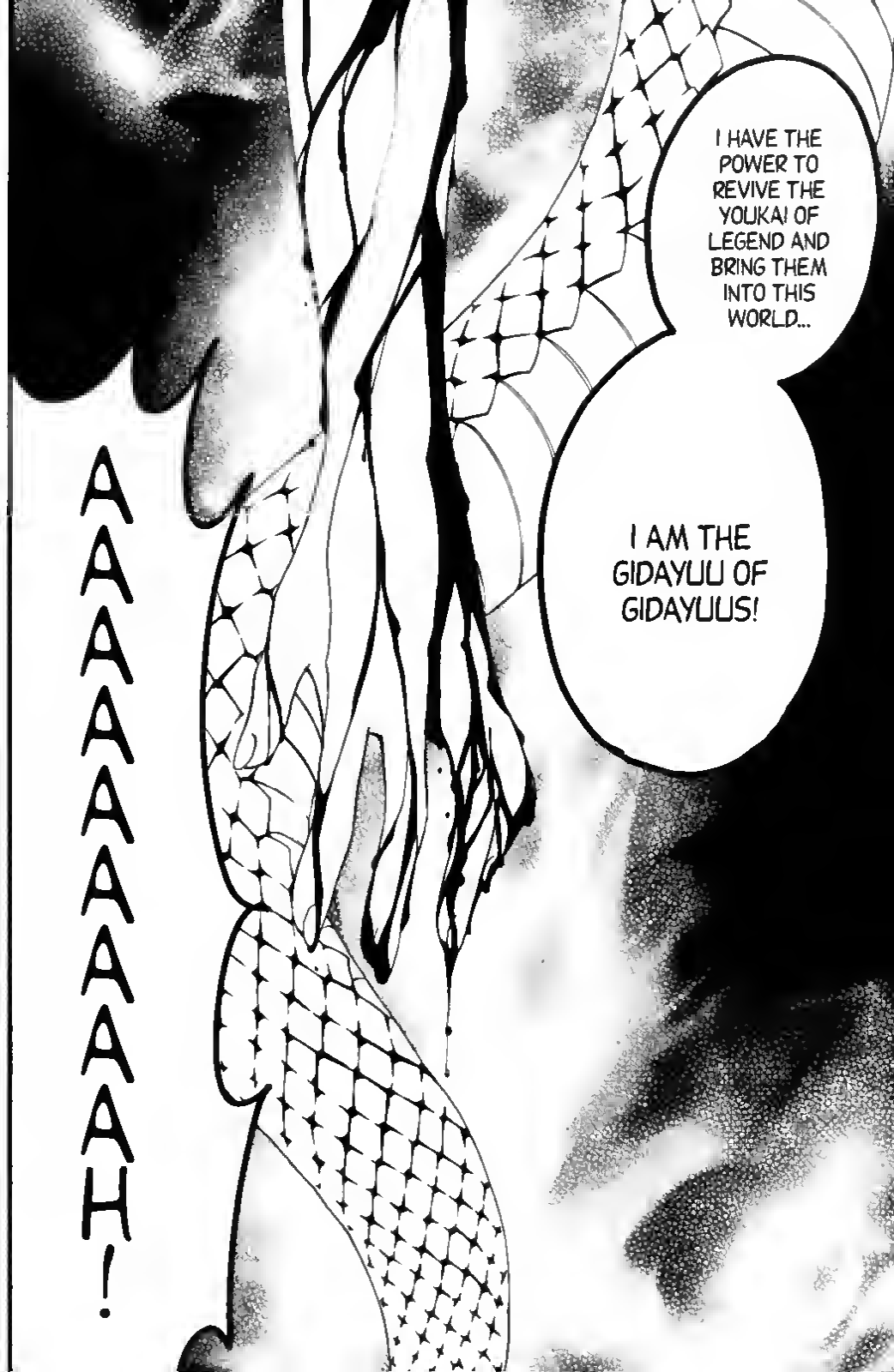
tactics 5

ICH-INOMIYA-SENSEI!
ICH-INOMIYA-SENSEI!
HUH?!
THAT MELODY.. IT'S "DOLUOLUI," RIGHT?
WHAT IF...
!
PLEASE LET ME IN!
WOW... YOU NEED A LIFE.
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT...
I'LL LET YOU IN IF YOU LEND ME SOMETHING.


HER HEART BURNED SO INTENSELY THAT IT BURNED HER BODY, AND HER BREATH LEFT HER MOUTH LIKE A BLAZE OF HEAT AND FLAMES.
THE SERPENT BURNED THE BELL AND THEN FLEW INTO THE SEA.
!

AH...
AH....!
HER DESIRE IS PUT OUT, AND HER EYES ARE WIDE OPEN. HER HAIR IS SHAKEN LOOSE, AND HER VERY SELF IS CONFINED BY A TERRIBLE POWER.
ETCH YOUR EXISTENCE INTO THAT MAN
BECOME A GIANT SERPENT AND HUNT DOWN THAT PRIEST.
THE DEMON WOMAN WHO WRAPPED HER BELOVED IN A BELL OF FLAMES...
AH!
AAAH!


...AND BURN THAT MAN ALIVE.
BECOME "KIYOHIME"...


I HAVE THE POWER TO REVIVE THE YOUKAI OF LEGEND AND BRING THEM INTO THIS WORLD...
I AM THE GIDAYUU OF GIDAYUUS!
AAAAAAAAAH!

THIS WAY, PLEASE.
HUH?
fWHiSH
GOOD-BYE!
OH.
ゴクリ…

HELLO, ICHINOMIYA-SENSEI. WHAT PERFECT TIMING.
I JUST REVIVED HER.
...KIYO-HIME...
MEET THE DEMON WHO BURNS HER LOVER IN A MAD FLASH FIRE...

WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU?!
I WANT YOU.
AND IF I CAN'T HAVE YOU...

...I'LL HAVE TO KILL YOU!
?!
ゴオオオオオ

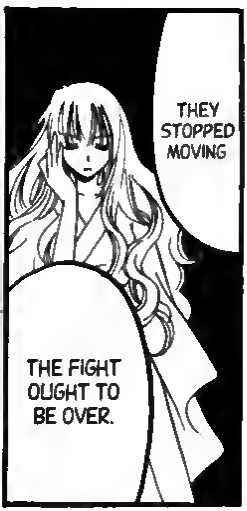
NNGH...!
WAKE UP. NOW.
DIE!
ウゴ

YOU POSSESSED YURI-CHAN WITH KIYOHIME...
...IN ORDER TO KILL HARUKA?!
I CAN'T MOVE!
SON OF A--
THEY'RE BATTLING ON STAGE AS WE SPEAK
?!
JUST SIT BACK AND ENJOY THE SHOW
I NEED TO WITNESS HIM RELEASE THE TRUE POWER OF THE "KOUSHIN-EYED DEMON-EATING TENGU."
AND WHY IS THAT, EXACTLY?
YOU SHOULD DROP YOUR INFATUATION WITH HIM, SENSEI. HE EATS YOUKAI--WHO YOU CLAIM ARE ALL YOUR FRIENDS.

WHAT WE ULTIMATELY WANT...
...IS FOR YOU TO REMOVE THAT TENGU'S NAME.
BE A DEAR...?

THAT PERSON'S DESIRE IS AS MY OWN.
SO I'LL FULFILL THAT REQUEST-- NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES.

I-I CAN MOVE AGAIN!
COME ALONG.


THEY STOPPED MOVING
THE FIGHT OUGHT TO BE OVER.

WHO'S "THAT PERSON"?

YOU CAN SEE THE KOUSHIN-EYED DEMON-EATING TENGU FOR YOURSELF.

KANTAROU. WHAT DO I DO WITH HER?
DAMMIT.
.....
YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THE DEMON-EATING TENGU!
WHAT DO YOU DO?! SHE'S A DEMON! YOU EAT HER!

WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM, LADY?
ムカ
You're a disgrace to youkai, you stupid twit! How did you ever get named "the best youkai"?! I'm disappointed! This is false advertising! I'm so angry!! Mwrar!
I DID WHAT YOU SAID-- I BROUGHT THE BELL FROM DOUJOUJI!
SENSEI!!!
GOOD. HARUKA, DROP IT ON YURI-CHAN!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT?!
BELL?!
OH MY GOD! IT'S SHOUKIKU-TAAAN! ♡♡
I'LL KILL YOU!
I'LL KILL YOU!
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT..
SHOUKIKU--
YAGH!

...BUT I CAN'T EAT DEMONS!
爾時世尊
從三昧
安詳而起
舍利弗
諸仏智慧
甚深無量

AAAAAAAH!
如是相 如是性
如是体 如是力
如是作 如是因
如是缘 如是果
如是报
如是本末
究竟等

THE LEGEND OF KIYOHIME IS BASED ON THE "DOUJOUJI OMEN" THAT SINGS THE PRAISES OF THE LOTUS SUTRA.
THE DEMON WOMAN AND PRIEST IN THAT STORY ARE SAVED BY THE POWER OF THE LOTUS SUTRA.
WHOA! IS THIS THE REHEARSAL FOR THE NEXT PLAY?! FABULOUS!
WHERE ARE THE STRINGS?!
Begone.
YOU RETURNED HER TO NORMAL...
THANKS TO NOH AND DRAMA BALLADS, THAT STORY WAS DRAMATIZED AS ENTERTAINMENT AND BECAME JUST ANOTHER STORY OF LOST LOVE.
HMPH.

THAT BOY WAS RIGHT ABOUT YOU KANTAROU ICHINOMIYA. YOU WON'T FALL EASILY
I'VE LOST THIS ROUND.
IF I WON, THEN ANSWER ME ONE THING--ARE YOU IN CAHOOTS WITH MINAMOTO?
THEIR GOAL IS THE SAME AS MY MASTER'S... FOR NOW.
"THEIR"...?
AAH-- SHOUKIKU-TAN! SEE YOU TOMORROW! ♡
UH...I WOULDN'T COUNT ON ANY PERFORMANCES FOR AWHILE.
OH.
AT LEAST THIS MEANS I'LL GET A BREAK FROM ALL THOSE EXORCISMS.
PHEW.

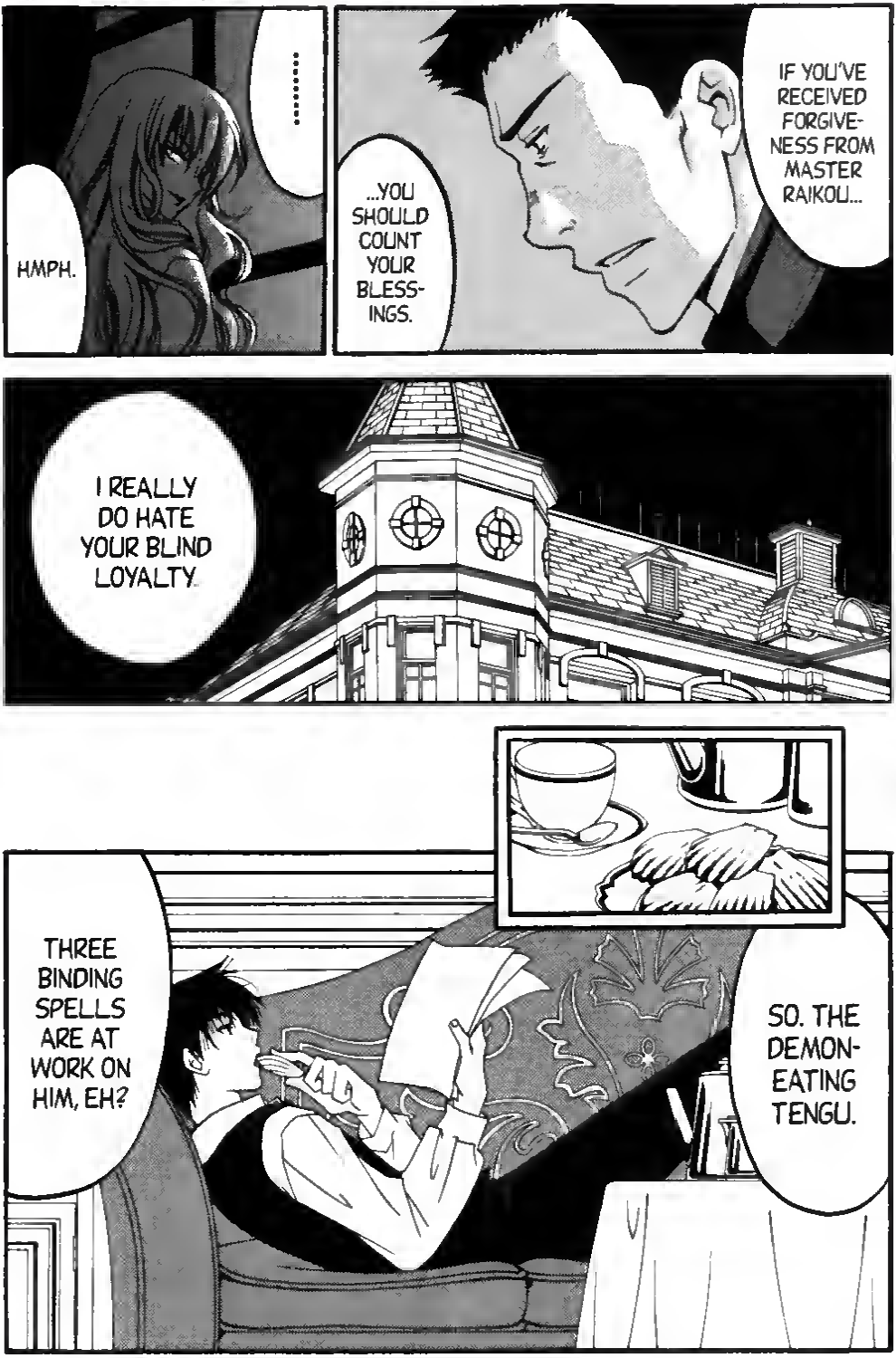
AH. SO YOU'RE AWAKE NOW?
HARUKA-SAN.
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU LOOK SICK.
I'M GOING TO HEAD ON HOME, IF YOU DON'T MIND I'LL LEAVE YURI-CHAN TO YOU
YOU WERE JUST POSSESSED BY THAT DEMON.
RIGHT...
スッ
..BUT THAT WASN'T ACTUALLY THE CASE, RIGHT?
I KNOW YOU SAID YOU LOVED ME...

I CAN'T STAND THICK-HEADED MEN.
I GIVE UP.
...HARUKA-SAN
FAREWELL...

I'VE GOT SOME SHOPPING TO DO. LOOK AFTER KAN-CHAN FOR ME, HARUKA-CHAN.
SURE.
I'LL BE... BETTER SOON, I PROMISE.
HAA
THIS IS TYPICAL FOR WHEN I COME IN CONTACT WITH DEMONS.
HAA
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ACT TOUGH.
IS THERE ANY-THING YOU WANT?
WELL... YES.

WHAT? WATER?
HOLD ON AND I'LL GET YOU SOME.
BUT I CAN'T... SAY IT YET.
BECAUSE I'M PAST REDEMPTION.

I DON'T WANT A STUPID BOUQUET!
I DON'T NEED CHEERING UP.
AND YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO DO THAT FOR ME.
I'M SURE HE'S NOT ANGRY WITH ME.
THERE'S NOTHING I DID FOR HIM TO BE ANGRY ABOUT.
I DON'T WANT FLOWERS--LET ME DRINK SOME BLOOD, YOU USELESS OAF!


.....
HMPH.
...YOU SHOULD COUNT YOUR BLESS-INGS.
IF YOU'VE RECEIVED FORGIVE-NESS FROM MASTER RAIKOU...
I REALLY DO HATE YOUR BLIND LOYALTY.
THREE BINDING SPELLS ARE AT WORK ON HIM, EH?
SO. THE DEMON-EATING TENGU.

THE THIRD WAS TO LOCK DOWN SOME OF HIS DEMONIC POWER AND CRUELTY.
THE SECOND WAS TO SEAL HIS MEMORY.
THE FIRST WAS TO BLOCK HIM FROM THE PHYSICAL WORLD.
...NOT TRY TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THEM?
WHY DOES THAT MAN...
HEY!
LISTEN TO THIS!
PARDON ME.
キィ…

I BROUGHT WINE TODAY AS A PRESENT.
IT'S YOUR FAVORITE: RED.
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR, MAJOR GENERAL MINAMOTO.
IT LOOKS LIKE OUR PLANS ARE GOING TO KICK MORE ASS THAN THEY ALREADY DO.
EDWARDS!

LET'S HAVE A TOAST IN HONOR OF THE SUCCESS OF OUR GOAL.
トク
トク
トク
WE'RE NOT THE ONLY ONES GROWING IMPATIENT-- THAT MAN IS, TOO.
WHY BE IMPATIENT NOW, AFTER WAITING HUNDREDS OF YEARS? THAT'S--
WHOOPS.
ハッ
ハッ
HMPH. YOU SAID THE NAME "HARUKA" DOESN'T SUIT YOU.
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT, DEMON-EATING TENGU.

TEE HEE.
!!!
ROSALIE! COME HERE THIS INSTANT!
BATHROOM
RO...
TEE
HEE
RO...

KANBARINYUUDOU STAGE PART I

tactics

DID YOU HEAR?
YOU KNOW THE "MAKA MYSTERIOUS RESEARCH SOCIETY" THAT HASUMI ESTABLISHED RIGHT?
UH, THAT WOULD BE OUR SPIRIT RESEARCH SOCIETY.
SUPPOSEDLY, HE HAS A FOREIGN CHILD WHO CAN HOUSE UNSEEN ENTITIES IN HER BODY.
WHEN HE STUDIED ABROAD IN ENGLAND--BEING A SCHOLAR OF FOLK RELIGION AND ALL--HASUMI ADOPTED HER.
REALLY? FASCINATING
HER POWER CERTAINLY DOES SOUND BAFFLING.
BUT WHO HONESTLY TAKES IN A CHILD FROM ANOTHER FAMILY AND COUNTRY?
THAT CHILD SPARKS MY INTEREST

I HAVE TO FIND HER.
ROSALIE...
THOSE WORDS YOU MUMBLE TO YOURSELF AND THE TRANCES YOU GO INTO ARE AN ILLNESS OF YOUR HEART.

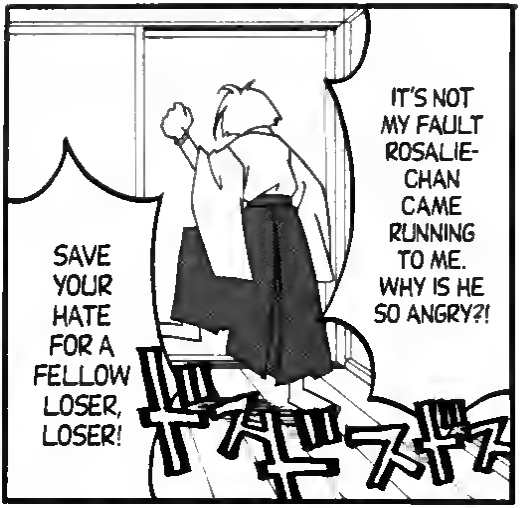
JUST RESTRAIN YOURSELF, PLEASE.
YOUR PARENTS DIDN'T UNDERSTAND IT--WHICH IS WHY THEY ABANDONED YOU.
BUT I WANT TO UNDERSTAND IT. AND CONSIDERING WHO I AM...
...I REALLY DO THINK I'M GOING TO BE ABLE TO.
ROSA-LIE...
...ISN'T LYING.
I NEVER SAID YOU WERE LYING.
JUST THAT YOU'RE GIVING OFF VERY WRONG IMPRES-SIONS--
W-WAIT, ROSALIE!
COME BACK HERE!
OW!

NICE. THE WEATHER'S BEEN ABSOLUTELY PERFECT THIS WEEK. ♡
DWAH!
WHEN THE SKIES ARE THIS CLEAR MY HEART FEELS JUST AS
R--
ROSA LIE CHAN ...?

.....
DOES HASUMI KNOW YOU'VE FLED CAMP?
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE ALL OF A SUDDEN, SWEETHEART?
AH.
WE CAN'T HAVE THAT, CAN WE?
I'M NOT...
WHAT?
ISN'T THAT NICE? HASUMI-SAN'S GONNA PICK YOU UP.
I'M GOING TO GIVE HIM A CALL.

I'M NOT... GOING HOME.
ROSALIE-CHAN...
SHE MUST REALLY WANT TO AVOID SOME-THING.
THAT'S PRETTY FOR-WARD FOR HER.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU AND HASUMI-SAN?
OW.
カルチャン
THAT EGOTISTICAL MERCURIAL PRICK!

I WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF THE GIRL RUNS AWAY ENTIRELY SOMEDA--
ばんっ


IT'S NOT MY FAULT ROSALIE-CHAN CAME RUNNING TO ME. WHY IS HE SO ANGRY?!
SAVE YOUR HATE FOR A FELLOW LOSER, LOSER!
ドスドス

...INTERESTING.
Me, too?

THIS IS WHERE HASUMI WORKS?
HELL.
HEY, HASUMI!
YOU'RE NOT BETTER THAN EVERYONE ELSE, CONTRARY TO WHAT YOUR TINY...
Ha!
WELL...HE CAN BE THE RICHEST GUY IN THE WORLD AND STILL SUCK AS A DAD.
HE WAS PROBABLY GIVING ROSALIE-CHAN ONE OF HIS TYPICAL INFLATED LECTURES.
I DON'T THINK I'VE TOLD HIM HOW I FEEL ABOUT THOSE LATELY.

...THINKS?
...BRAIN.
ROSALIE!
GAH!
HASUMI'S HOUSE ISN'T USUALLY THIS.. POPULATED.
MAYBE I GOT THE WRONG PLACE.
THAT'S WEIRD.
HOW DARE YOU KIDNAP MY ROSALIE, FIEND!
I DIDN'T! HARUKA AND YOUKO-CHAN ARE WATCHING HER AT MY PLACE, YOU ASS!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?!
HUH? ICHINOMIYA!

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D HEAR HASUMI-SENSEI RAISE HIS VOICE LIKE THAT.
YOU MUST BE HASUMI-SENSEI'S... FRIEND? COME IN AND HAVE SOME TEA.
AYAME-KUN!
I DON'T WANT HIM--
COME ON, SENSEI! WE SHOULDN'T REJECT SOMEONE WHO'S COME TO OUR MAKA MYSTE-RIOUS RESEARCH SOCIETY
HM...
MAKA-WHAT?

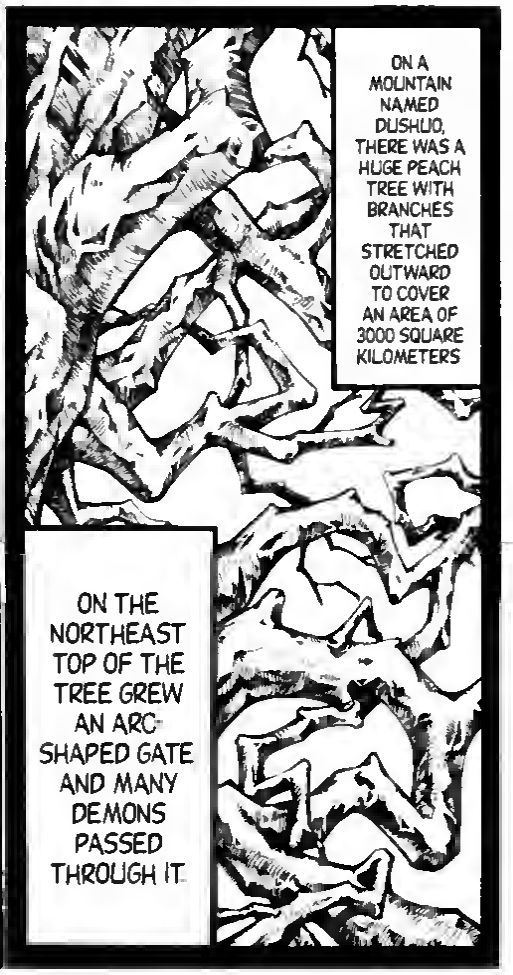
AH. THAT SEEMS TO BE POPULAR THESE DAYS. LIKE SOCIETIES THAT DIG INTO KOKKURI-SAN AND OCCULT PRACTICES
AHEM.
HASUMI-SENSEI IS OUR FOUNDER.
THE MAKA MYSTERIOUS RESEARCH SOCIETY IS OUT TO INVESTIGATE OLD FOLKLORE BELIEFS AND OCCULT PHENOMENA IN ORDER TO OPEN UP A NEW PATH OF STUDY.
THIS IS A RESEARCH ORGANIZATION THAT SEEKS TO ABOLISH THE SYSTEM OF GIVING CREDENCE TO SUPERSTITION AND LEGEND THAT CREATES A HUGE HINDRANCE TO THE PROGRESS OF STUDYING TRUE RELIGIOUS BELIEF AND JAPANESE CULTURE THROUGH SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE.
PLEASE DON'T GROUP US WITH COMMON HACKS.
SLAM
AYAME-CHAN, WAS IT? WHAT A SWEET AND ATTRACTIVE GIRL. MY NAME'S KANTAROU ICHINOMIYA, AND I'M THOROUGHLY PLEASED TO--
SENSEI, YOU'RE BEING MEAN.
DON'T GIVE ME THAT LOOK!
THERE'S NO WAY A FANTASY NOVELIST LIKE YOU COULD COMPREHEND OUR SUPREME WILL!
OOOH...

COME WITH US, ICHINO-MIYA-SAN!
HOW... ODD.
IT CAME OUT IN THE PRIVY AGAIN!
IT'S... HERE!
BATHROOM
ARE WE GETTING A SHOW?
THIS MAN CLAIMS THAT HIS BOTTOM WAS TOUCHED BY SOME-THING.
HOW WOULD YOU EXPLAIN THAT?
ICHINO-MIYA-SENSEI.

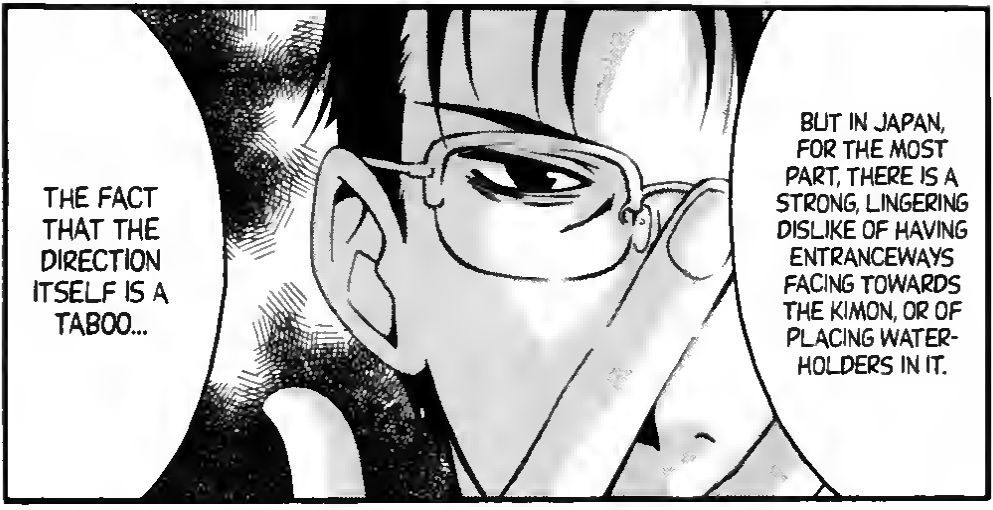
I FEEL A SLIGHT YOUKAI PRESENCE.
BUT HE CAN'T... MEET ME. OR RATHER...
HE DOESN'T WANT TO MEET ME? I WONDER WHY...
.....
HEH
HEH!
HUH?
PRECON-CEIVED IDEAS? HOW CAN YOU ASSERT THAT?
DO YOU KNOW WHAT DIRECTION THIS LIES IN?
WHAT A TYPICAL DELUSION-AL OPINION FROM YOU.
I BELIEVE THAT THIS MAN FILLED HIS HEAD WITH PRECONCEIVED IDEAS ABOUT THIS PARTICULAR PLACE AND THEN OBSESSED OVER IT.
HIS PERCEPTION WARPING FEAR FOR THE VERY STRUCTURE OF THE PRIVY MADE HIM MISTAKE A BREEZE COMING FROM BELOW TO BE A HAND

WAIT A MINUTE!
KIMON?!
EXACTLY! LOOKING OUT FROM THE CENTER OF THIS HOUSE, THE PRIVY IS LOCATED IN THE NORTHEAST DIRECTION.
IN OTHER WORDS, THE KIMON WHERE DEMONS ENTER AND EXIT!
Center
North Rat
Tiger
Rooster
Dog
West Bird
East Hare
Monkey
Evil Back Kimon
Ram
South Horse
Serpent
Ox
Dragon
I HAVE A QUESTION.
WHY IS THE KIMON CONSIDERED A "BAD" DIRECTION?
KIMON...
THEN WHY ISN'T THERE EVEN A TRACE OF DEMON ENERGY HERE?
THAT COMES FROM A STORY IN THE ANCIENT RECORDS OF "SHANHAIJING," AN ANCIENT BOOK FROM THE HAN DYNASTY.

A CHINESE LEGEND, HM?
SO YOU SEE, THE KIMON CONCEPT ORIGINATED IN CHINA.
INTERES-TING.

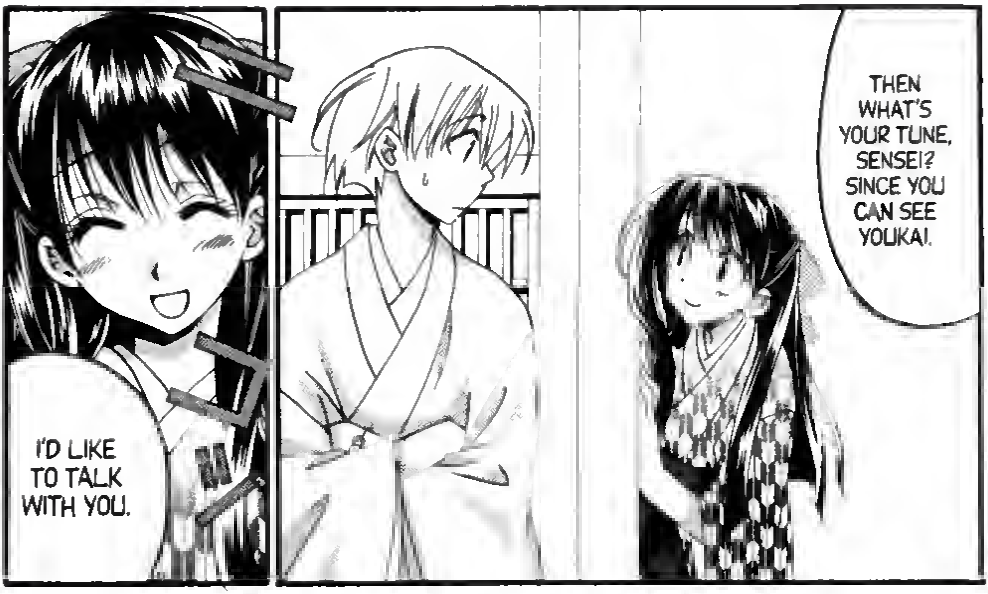

ON A MOUNTAIN NAMED DUSHUO, THERE WAS A HUGE PEACH TREE WITH BRANCHES THAT STRETCHED OUTWARD TO COVER AN AREA OF 3000 SQUARE KILOMETERS
ON THE NORTHEAST TOP OF THE TREE GREW AN ARC-SHAPED GATE AND MANY DEMONS PASSED THROUGH IT.

THERE ARE ALSO CASES OF THE KIMON BEING HELD IN HIGH REGARD, THOUGH.
SINCE IT'S A DIRECTION FROM WHENCE THE SUN IS BORN, THERE ARE THOSE WHO THINK THAT IT HOLDS PURE, CLEAN ENERGY.

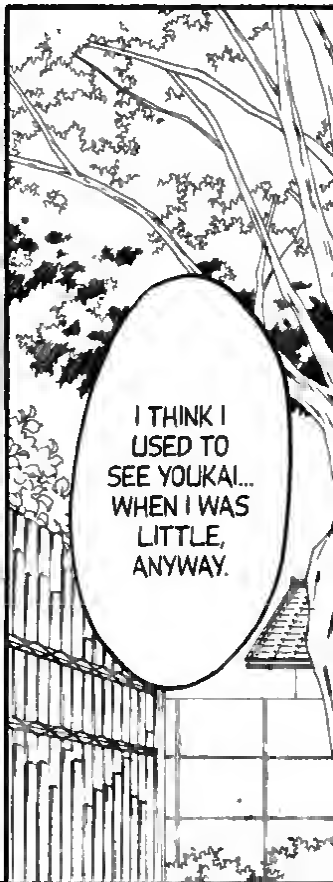

THE FACT THAT THE DIRECTION ITSELF IS A TABOO...
BUT IN JAPAN, FOR THE MOST PART, THERE IS A STRONG, LINGERING DISLIKE OF HAVING ENTRANCEWAYS FACING TOWARDS THE KIMON, OR OF PLACING WATER-HOLDERS IN IT.

...SO YOU PUT IT THERE ON PURPOSE
IT WILL HELP ME GAIN PROOF THAT THE KIMON IS A MERE SUPERSTITION!
...IS EXACTLY WHY I BUILT THE PRIVY FACING IT!
YOU MEAN LIKE SHIKOSHIN, BAKE-MONOKOU, OR KANBARIN-YUUDOU?
IF YOU THINK ABOUT THE STRUCTURE OF THE PRIVY, I THINK IT'S ALSO NATURAL TO CONSIDER THE GOD OF THE PRIVY.
BUT I THINK THAT THE SUPERSTITION SURROUNDING KIMON IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE JAPANESE CULTURE.
YOU WOULD! IF YOU KEEP STICKING TO OLD CONVENTIONS LIKE THAT, YOU'LL NEVER LET ANY NEW INFORMATION IN--AND THAT'S THE TEXTBOOK RECIPE FOR A JAPANESE DARK AGE!
Somebody stop them, please
YOU'RE NOT LISTENING TO ME!
YOUKAI ARE JUST THE PRODUCTS OF JAPANESE IMAGINATION, TO HELP THE PEOPLE ACCEPT WHAT THEY DON'T UNDERSTAND!

...YOU MUST REALLY LIKE YOUKAI, HASUMI.
WHAT?!
HEE HEE!
HEH! HEH!
WHY ARE YOU LAUGHING?!
NOTHING.
IT'S JUST...
D-DON'T BE RIDICULOUS!
I DON'T BELIEVE IN YOUKAI!
YET YOU KNOW SO MUCH ABOUT THEM.
AGH! YOU'RE WORSE THAN A BRICK WALL!
JUST HAVE HARUKA-KUN BRING ROSALIE HOME, ICHINOMIYA!
PHEW...
HE'D BE SINGING A DIFFERENT TUNE IF HE COULD SEE YOUKAI.


I'D LIKE TO TALK WITH YOU.
THEN WHAT'S YOUR TUNE, SENSEI? SINCE YOU CAN SEE YOUKAI.

IT'S THE ONLY WAY I CAN EXPLAIN MY MEMORIES, IN RETROSPECT.

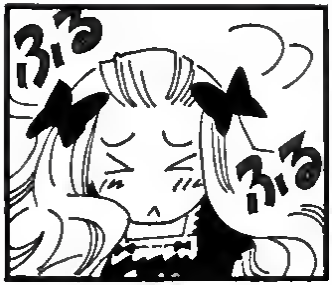

I THINK I USED TO SEE YOUKAI... WHEN I WAS LITTLE, ANYWAY.

.....
BUT AS I GREW OLDER I LOST THAT ABILITY

...I THOUGHT I'D JUST LEARN ABOUT THEM IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE.
SINCE I COULDN'T SPEAK WITH THEM ANYMORE...
OH, I'M SO HAPPY TO HEAR THAT!
DON'T WORRY, AYAKE-CHAN-- YOUKAI LIKE YOU.
DO THEY REALLY?!
TAKE IT ON THE WORD OF AN EXPERT.

HASUMI-SAN MUST BE WORRIED, HUH? WE SHOULD GET YOU HOME.
.....
RYOUKAN...
...ISN'T WORRIED ABOUT ROSA.
OF COURSE HE'S--
HUH?

WHOA.
WHAT BRINGS ALL THE BIRDIES?
THEY CAME TO TELL US THAT KANTAROU IS AT YOUR DAD'S PLACE
ALSO, THAT WE'RE LOUD.
HEY.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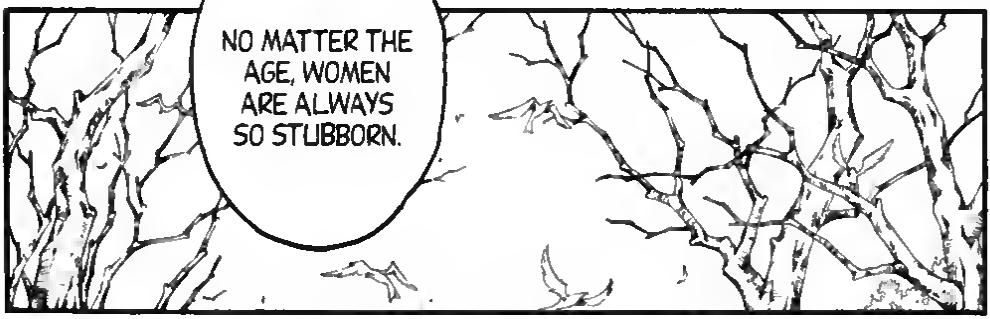
Dammit.

DON'T MAKE THAT FACE. IT'S FOR THE BEST THAT YOU GO HOME.


NO MATTER THE AGE, WOMEN ARE ALWAYS SO STUBBORN.

SHE'D LOCK HERSELF IN THERE AND START TALKING NON-STOP IT WAS A LITTLE CREEPY

HUH? REALLY?
I THINK ROSALIE-CHAN MET A SPIRIT IN THE BATHROOM.

HE WOULD, CONSIDERING HOW SERIOUSLY HE TAKES THAT TOILET.
BUT ROSALIE-CHAN PROBABLY DION'T UNOERSTAND WHY HE WAS ANGRY AT HER.
WHEN ASKED, SHE SAID SHE WAS "TALKING WITH A FRIEND."
HASUMI-SENSEI HEARO ANO GOT REALLY UPSET.
INDEED.
I OON'T KNOW WHY SENSEI WOULO ACT THAT WAY WITH A CHILO. HOW COULO SHE UNOERSTANO THAT HE OOESN'T BELIEVE HER BECAUSE HE CAN'T SEE WHAT SHE OOES?
BUT SINCE SENSEI OOESN'T BELIEVE IN YOUKAI...
...WHY OOES HE USE ROSALIE-CHAN AS A SPIRIT MEOIUM IN POSSESSION EXPERIMENTS?
THAT LACK OF COMMUNI-CATION IS SO FRUSTRATING, FOR ROSALIE-CHAN AND FOR ALL OF US.
AND HIS SUCCESS RATES ARE SO HIGH THAT OTHER SPIRIT RESEARCHERS ARE STARTING TO TALK...

SLAM
!

ICHINOMIYA SENSEI?

WHAT IS IT NOW? KNOCK BEFORE YOU--

THAT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS.

IT'S **UNFATHOMABLE** THAT YOU WON'T LISTEN TO ROSALIE-CHAN, AND YET YOU'LL GIVE HER THE BURDEN OF HAVING SPIRITS POSSESS HER BODY.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, HASUMI?!

YOU POMPOUS ASS
WHAT?

...ICHINO-MIYA?
Yikes.
IT'S JUST BECAUSE...
BUT WE'RE ALL LIVING CREATURES!
YOU'RE JUST USING US, AFTER YOU'VE FIGURED OUT WHAT WE'RE WORTH--ALL UNDER THE GUISE OF "LOOKING OUT" FOR US.

WHO WERE YOU JUST TALKING ABOUT?
ER...
I-I'M SORRY
ICHINOMIYA-SENSE!! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
...BE-CAUSE I SEE THINGS DIFFER-ENTLY FROM YOU!

GYAAAAAAH!
IT'S THE BATHROOM!
SAVE UUUUS!

I WON'T FORGIVE YOU.
I WON'T FORGIVE YOUR SLANDER AGAINST ROSA!
THEN, THE WATER IN THE PRIVY SUDDENLY GUSHED OUT OVER—
W-WE WERE TALKING IN THE LOO ABOUT WHETHER OR NOT ROSALIE'S POSSESSIONS WERE REAL.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU TWO?
DID THE PIPES BREAK?
!
Voluntary Censor
YAAAAH!
WE SHOULD GO.
NOW WHAT? IT CAME OUT, BUT WE CAN'T GET NEAR IT!
SO THERE REALLY WAS A YOUKAI!

LET ME HELP YOU!
YOU DO INCAN-TATIONS, AYAME-CHAN?!
OOPS!
I GUESS TRYING TO IMITATE IT WAS USELESS, THOUGH
YEESH. I USED TO WATCH OTHERS DO IT.
WATCHED WHO?! WHATEVER, JUST GET OUTSIDE!
HURK
HURK

HOLY SHI--
THIS STINKS!
HARUKA!

GO HOME.
DAMMIT- HE GOT AWAY!
TH-THANK YOU SO MUCH!

WAIT, LITTLE YOUKAI! I WANTED TO TALK!
NOOO!
CURSE YOU AND YOUR SEE-THING GLARE, HA-RUKA!

WHY ARE YOU HERE?
UH... HARUKA?

YOU. START TALKING.
HARUKA?
UM... EXCUSE ME?
HAVE WE MET BEFORE?
RRGH!

KANBARINYUUDOU STAGE PART II

tactics

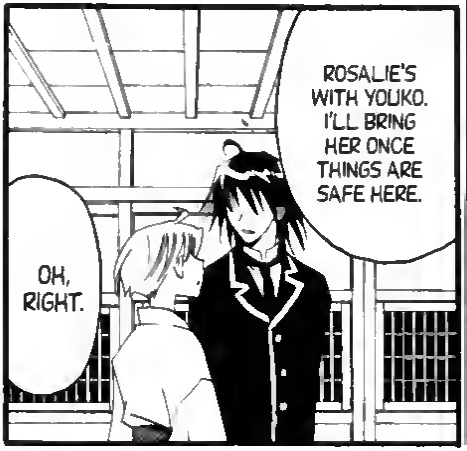
JUST ANSWER THE QUESTION.
NNGH... NN!

I'LL CRUSH YOUR NECK IF I HAVE TO!
I... I...!
臨兵闘者
RIN BYON TOU SHA
皆陣
KAI JIN
列在前
RETSU ZAI ZEN

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
"AYAME"?
THAT'S AYAME-SAN, A MEMBER OF HASUMI'S RESEARCH GROUP. I JUST MET HER.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, HARUKA?

tactics 5

KANTAROU.


ROSALIE'S WITH YOUKO. I'LL BRING HER ONCE THINGS ARE SAFE HERE.
OH, RIGHT.

.....
AYA-ME...

JEEZ. YOU WERE MORE THAN "ROUGH" CONSIDERING I'M NOT EVEN WHO YOU THINK I AM
IF WE EVER MEET AGAIN...

...FOR BEING SO ROUGH

SORRY...

HARUKA!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?! YOU'RE NOT--
WHAT?!
...DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO NOT SHOW YOURSELF TO ME.
WHAT A RUDE MAN!
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE MET HIM. WHAT A THING TO TELL ME.

tactics 5

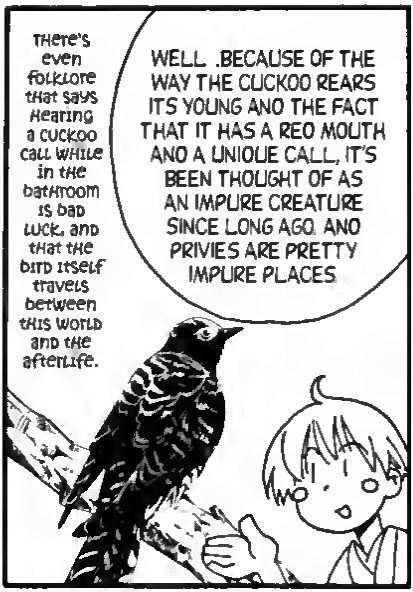
LOOKS LIKE HARUKA CHAN'S ANGSTING AGAIN.
WHATEVER IT IS I HOPE HE GETS OVER IT.
I'M THE DULLEST TOOL IN THE BOX OF ROCKS
Self-LoatHing
WHY ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT HIM? IT'S NOT YOUR PROBLEM.
WHAT, ROSALIE-CHAN?
WHAT AM I DOING?
WHY? WELL, HARUKA-CHAN'S PRACTICALLY MY FAMILY AND FAMILY MEMBERS WORRY ABOUT EACH OTHER.
IT'S LIKE HOW HASUMI-SAN'S PROBABLY WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
RYOUKAN IS?
AFTER ALL...

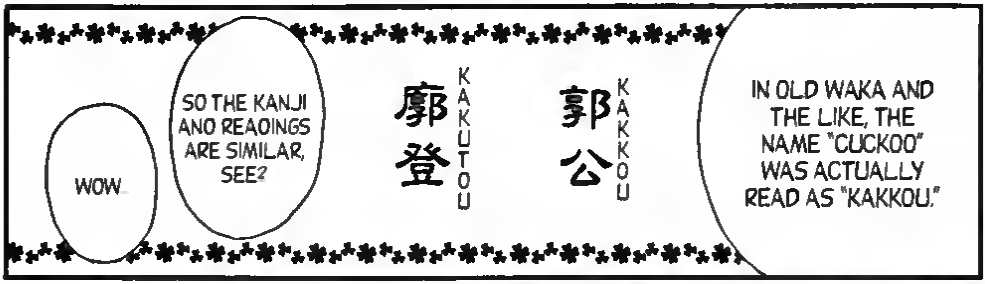
YOU AND HASUMI-SAN GOT IN A LITTLE FIGHT, RIGHT?
I DOUBT HE'D USE UP ALL THAT FEELING FOR SOMEONE HE DIDN'T CARE ABOUT.
BEING MAD OR GETTING IN A FIGHT WITH SOMEONE TAKES A LOT OF EMOTION.
!
SEE? NOW YOU'RE WORRYING ABOUT HIM.
AND WHEN YOU MAKE HASUMI-SAN WORRY...
YEAH... RYOUKAN'S REALLY MAD.

I GET IT. SO THAT PRIVY YOUKAI FROM EARLIER...
HE WASN'T A KAN-BARIN-YUUDOU.
GUESS SHE'S NOT MAD ABOUT HARUKA ANYMORE.
THAT SEEMS TO BE THE CASE, YEAH.
THAT GUY FROM BEFORE WAS A BAKE-MONOKOU.
SINCE I FELT A STRONG YOUKAI AURA BESIDES THE BAKEMONOKOU'S, I THOUGHT A KANBARINYUUDO WAS THERE, TOO...THOUGH I WONDER WHY HE DIDN'T COME OUT.
WHEN IT COMES TO PRIVY YOUKAI, KANBA-RINYUU-DOU'S THE ONE.
THERE'S EVEN THE OLD-SAYING THAT CLAIMS THAT CHANTING "KANBARIN-YUUDOU CUCKOO" ON NEW YEAR'S EVE WILL PROTECT YOU FROM SEEING YOUKAI.
YOU'RE PRETTY INFORMED, AYAME-CHAN.
BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I ALWAYS WONDERED ABOUT, ICHINOMIYA-SENSEI! IS THERE SOME KIND OF CONNECTION BETWEEN THE CUCKOO AND KANBARIN-YUUDOU?

tactics 5

ON THAT NOTE, THERE'S A PRIVY GOO IN CHINA CALLED "KAKUTOU"
KAKUTOU?


WELL...BECAUSE OF THE WAY THE CUCKOO REARS ITS YOUNG AND THE FACT THAT IT HAS A RED MOUTH AND A UNIQUE CALL, IT'S BEEN THOUGHT OF AS AN IMPURE CREATURE SINCE LONG AGO. AND PRIVIES ARE PRETTY IMPURE PLACES.
There's even folklore that says hearing a cuckoo call while in the bathroom is bad luck, and that the bird itself travels between this world and the afterlife.


IN OLD WAKA AND THE LIKE, THE NAME "CUCKOO" WAS ACTUALLY READ AS "KAKKOU."
郭公 KAKKOU
杜鵑 KAKUTOU
SO THE KANJI AND READINGS ARE SIMILAR, SEE?
WOW.

IT WOULD! BUT THAT'S NOT TRUE, RIGHT?
AYAME-CHAN.
YES?

WOULDN'T IT BE INTERESTING IF, LONG AGO, PEOPLE ASSOCIATED KANBARINYUUDOU WITH KAKUTOU...
...AND THAT'S HOW THE SAYING CAME ABOUT?

WHEN I WAS LITTLE, I COULDN'T USE THE FACILITIES UNTIL I GOT COMPLETELY NUDE. MY PARENTS WERE ALWAYS MAD AT ME FOR THAT.
NNGH! NNGH!
KYAAAAH!
I can't say I Have.
Bwa Ha Ha!
DID YOU EVER GO TO THE BATHROOM NAKED AND RUN INTO TROUBLE?
THOSE WARNINGS ARE ALL ROOTED IN SUPERSTITIONS THAT GODS FREQUENT THE PRIVY.
THERE ARE TRADITIONAL WARNINGS AGAINST THAT, JUST AS THERE ARE AGAINST SPITTING INTO THE PRIVY HOLE OR ENTERING THE PRIVY WITHOUT COUGHING FIRST.
SINCE PRIVIES ARE SMELLY AND DIRTY PLACES, PEOPLE WHO WANTED THEM TO BE MORE DIGNIFIED MUST HAVE GIVEN RISE TO THOSE KINDS OF GODS.
THERE'S A TALE OF TWO GODS BEING BORN OF THE STOOL AND URINE OF THE GOD IZANAMI HANIYASU HIME NO KAMI AND MIZUHANOME NO KAMI.
THEN IN MIKKYOU TEACHINGS THERE'S USUSA MAMYOUOU...

YOUKAI ARE BORN FROM PEOPLE'S FEARS, AND GODS, FROM RELIGIOUS PIETY.
I WONDER WHICH CATEGORY ROSALIE-CHAN'S FRIEND FALLS INTO.
I WONDER, ICHINOMIYA-SENSEI..
DO YOU FEEL FOR KANBA-RINYOUDOU--
EITHER WAY, I'M SURE SHE'S SAFE WITH HIM.
WAUGH!

RYOUKAAAAN!
たたたたた
OH ROSA-CHAN WELCOME HOME
BLESS THE INNOCENCE.. AND STRENGTH OF YOUTH.
I TOLD HER THAT IF SHE WORRIES HASUMI-SAN TOO MUCH...
...THE SON OF A BITCH WILL GO BALD!
HELLO, YOU TWO. HOW DID THINGS GO WITH HER?
WE WON.
YOUKO LIED TO HER, I THINK.
.....
on bishibishi karakara shibari sowaka...

WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?!
URGH... WE LET OUR GUARD DOWN. Again.

DAMN THAT ICHINOMIYA, SAYING THIS IS THE WORK OF A YOUKAI. HOW CAN HE BE SO HAUGHTY WHEN HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY PROOF?!
SQUEAK
SQUEAK
BATHROOM
I HOPE IT'S NOT...
THESE ARE BINDINGS TO RESTRICT OUR MOVEMENT.
IT LOOKS LIKE A MAGIC USER BROKE INTO THE HOUSE
I'M STILL CONVINCED THAT KIMON IS A SUPERSTITION!
R a a a a H !
A WAVE OF EXCREMENT FLOODING THE HOUSE IS BOUND TO HAPPEN ONCE IN A WHILE
...THIS IS STILL THE ONLY PROBLEM I'VE EVER HAD.
AFTER ALL, AFTER HAVING THIS PRIVY IN THE KIMON DIRECTION FOR SO LONG...

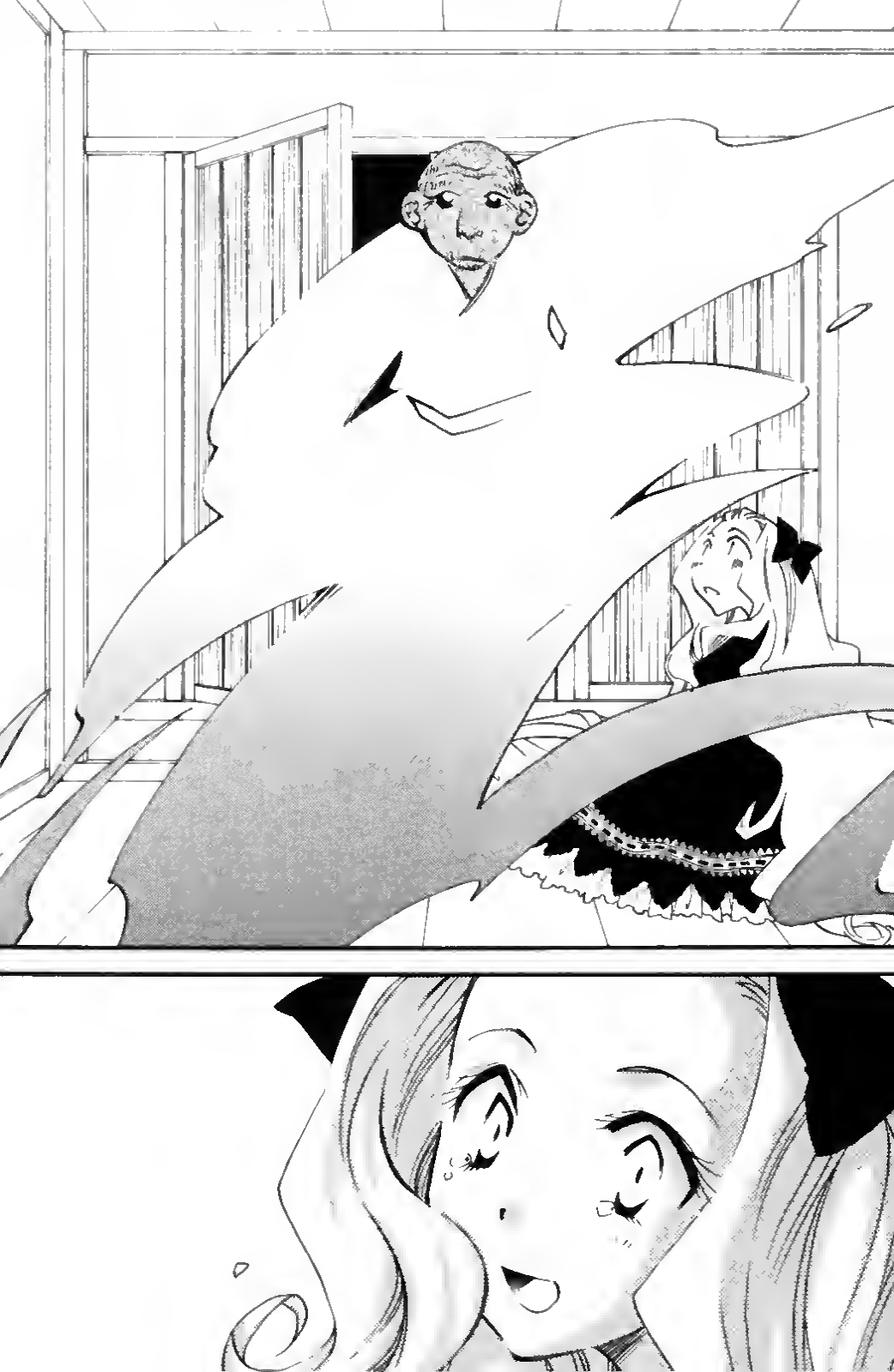
!!
AHH!!
S-STOP IT, ROSALIE! AT LEAST SAY HELLO TO ME!
DON'T LOCK THE DOOR! HEY!
ROSALIE!
HaaH
HaaH
HFF

I'VE FINALLY FOUND YOU.
THERE YOU ARE.
Now let's both go home...
...my dear automatisme.

AH...!
gram
ma-

D--
DON'T TOUCH ROSALIE!
IT'S NOT A MATTER OF ME KNOWING HER THIS IS MY--
Grip
HOW DO YOU KNOW ROSALIE?
I KNEW YOU WERE OOO, THE FIRST TIME WE MET.
Ha Ha!
...I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU!
I-I-IF YOU HURT ROSA...

WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!
HA HA HA HA HA HA!
I SUPPOSE I OUGHT TO THANK YOU FOR MAKING ME LAUGH.
YOU WITH YOUR COLD, HYPO-CRITICAL FARCE.
RYOUKAN!
RYOUKAN!



OH, MY.
ACK!
HNN!
UGH!
NN!

?
プシュ
プシュ
プシュ
KYAAA!

WE MEET AT LAST, KANBARIN-YUUDOU!
YOU SHY LITTLE DEVIL. ♡
HMM... I GUESS I LOSE THIS ONE.

YOUR BINDINGS WERE WEAK.
KANTAROU AND I UNDID THEM IN SECONDS
I NEVER THOUGHT MY SPELL WOULD DISSOLVE SO QUICKLY
YOU HAVE TO BE PRETTY POWERFUL TO PULL OFF BINDINGS LIKE THAT AT ALL BUT THERE ARE VERY FEW PEOPLE WHO KNOW THE SHUGENDOU ESSENTIAL PHASE SKILLS.
AND YOU'RE AN HONORED GUEST OF THE GOVERN MENT.
WHEN I PUT THOSE TWO FACTS TOGETHER...

...THEY LEAD RIGHT TO RAIKOU MINA-MOTO.
HE TAUGHT YOU THE SPELL, DIDN'T HE?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE HIM UNTIL WE CAME IN HERE. SO WHAT BRINGS YOU, FAKE EXORCIST?
ズッ!
WOW... JAPANESE SPELLS SURE ARE DIFFICULT.
BUT THAT WAS JUST SOMETHING TO BUY TIME, ANYWAY.
HEY!
YO

MY REAL SPECIALTY IS IN THE COMBAT ARTS.
...GOOD FOR YOU.

ベキベキ
ガン
ガン
OW! THAT'S NOT FAIR, DAMMIT!
DON'T FORGET THAT EVEN A FINGER CAN BE A WEAPON.
OH, I KNOW.
YOU'RE DECENT.
!
LOOK OUT!
OW!

KANBARIN-YUUDOU, RUN!
MISTER MAJOR GENERAL SAYS YOU'RE THE KEY TO THIS GATE.
OPEN UP AND GET RID OF THAT OBSTACLE OF A MAN!
NO!

ZOOOOO!

I KNEW IT... KANBARIN-YUUDOU WAS THE DIVINE PROTECTOR OVER THIS PRIVY.
HE WAS THE SEAL FOR THE KIMON, AND NOW THERE ARE DEMONS EVERY-WHERE!

WAKE UP
A GOOD MASTER STAYS FOCUSED
AH!
I'LL HANDLE THESE WEAKLINGS
HARUKA!
M-OOH

HA HA! WELL, I'M ACCEPTED AS HUMAN, FOR WHAT THAT'S WORTH.
LET'S HAVE SOME FUN, SHALL WE?
I KNOW I LEFT MYSELF OPEN, BUT THAT'S STILL THE FIRST TIME I'VE BEEN HIT IN THE FACE IN A WHILE.
YOU CAN'T BE HUMAN
I PROMISE TO PLAY SO HARD THAT YOU'LL FORGET ALL ABOUT YOUR LITTLE MASTER.
MISTER STRONGEST YOUKAI.

YOU'RE ASKING FOR IT.
WH-WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?
I HAVE A BAD FEELING...

THAT'S BECAUSE WE'RE SURROUNDED, GENIUS!
THIS TIME...
...I THINK WE REALLY ARE SCREWED.
Hff
Haah

Hello. This is Kazuko Higashiyama.

Thank you for buying *Tactics* Volume 5!

Lately it's felt like I have all this time, and yet no time at all. My sense of time has gotten all weird. Ah, well, it's not really worth caring about.

Now as for the actual reading of Volume 5...

It's all about Edwards-san, isn't it? And we used to think he was just a blockhead of a priest.

Then there's Rosa and Hasumi.

The spotlight's finally shifted to these three people.

But that decreased the number of times Haruka made an appearance...

Also, the bonus material in this particular volume is a manga!

Sorry, Kinoshita-san, for always having you carry me on your back or in your arms.

I'll give you clothes as a present so just please forgive me... (weep).

I got to see snapshots of the work in progress through a cell phone camera, but I still have no clue as to the actual content. This is going to be my first time seeing it, along with all of you.

But just the great images made it look fun enough!

Along with the limited-edition drama CD...I'm so looking forward to it!

Starting in this volume, the loooong subtitle of "Demon-Eating Tengu Shinobuyo Fuji Soushi" gets added and the story takes a clean shift in focus to Haruka's past and the goings-on within Kantarou.

I'm also thinking I want to open up new sides to the sub-characters as well.

The story is overall going to get more serious, but I'll never forget to include the funny stuff.

So please stick along for the ride.

Well, I hope to see you again in Volume 6!

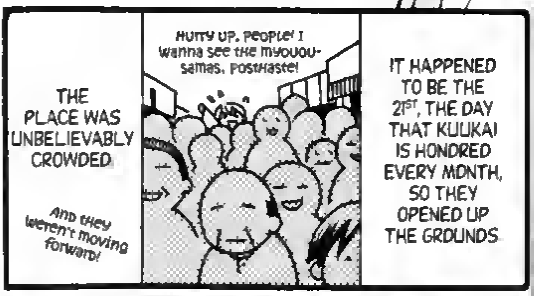
KANTAROU & MUU-CHAN'S

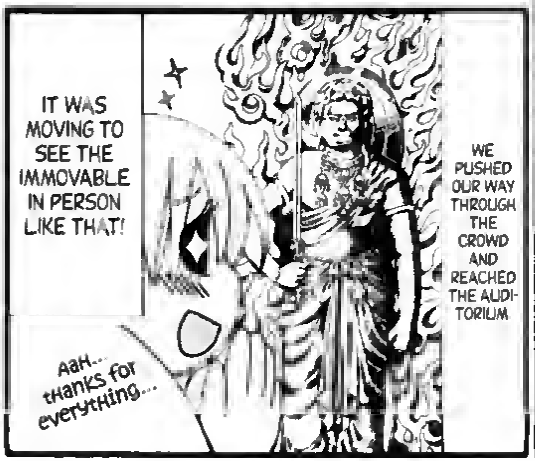
tactics mysterious tour in KYOTO

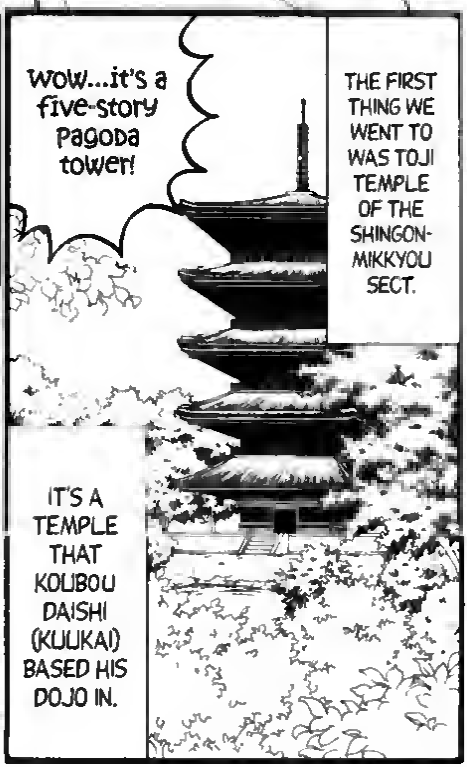
KYOTO-WORSHIPPING CHRONICLE

THE LAST TIME WE THOUGHT OF GOING, I GOT HIT WITH A BAD FEVER THE DAY BEFORE, AND EVEN THIS TRIP HAD ITS OBSTACLES. I SWEAR, KYOTO HATES ME
MUU!
HUH?
SNIFF

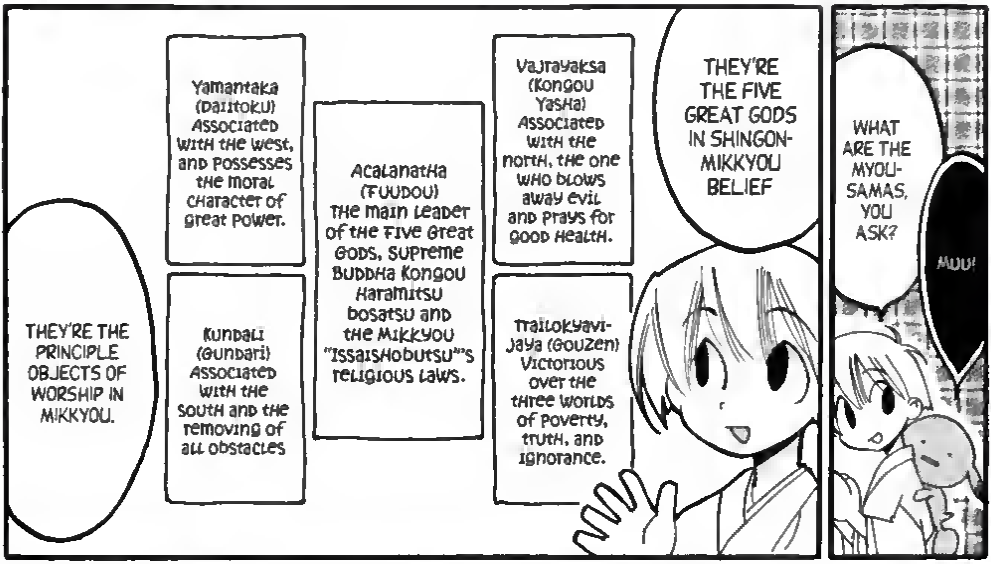
HELLO! FIVE VOLUMES INTO OUR SERIES, WE FINALLY GOT TO GO TO KYOTO. THIS IS KANTAROU ICHINOMIYA ANO MUU-CHAN!
SINCE THE SUBJECTS OF *TACTICS* SEEM TO REVOLVE AROUND THE CITY, IT'S ABOUT TIME WE WENT.
WE'VE TRIED TO RECOUNT HIGASHIYAMA'S ANO KINOSHITA'S TRAVELOGUE OF KYOTO THROUGH KAN ANO MUU! ALMOST NO DRAMATIZATION HAS BEEN USED.

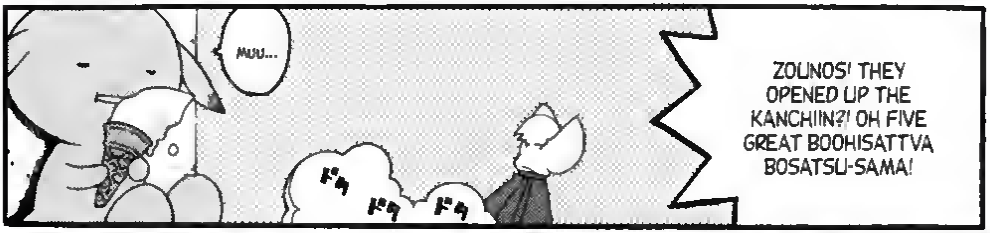

THE PLACE WAS UNBELIEVABLY CROWDED.
And they weren't moving forward!
Hurry up, people! I wanna see the Myoujou-samas. Posthaste!
IT HAPPENED TO BE THE 21ST, THE DAY THAT KUUKAI IS HONORED EVERY MONTH, SO THEY OPENED UP THE GROUNDS.

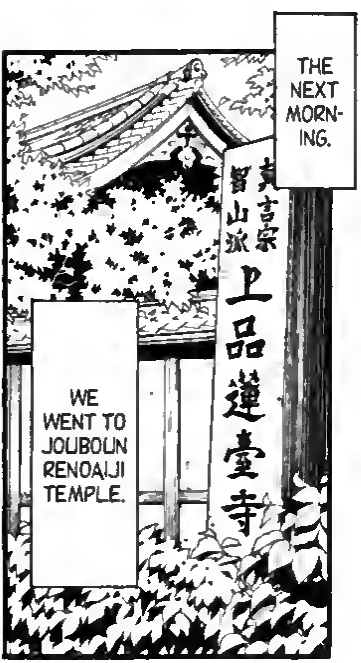

IT WAS MOVING TO SEE THE IMMOVABLE IN PERSON LIKE THAT!
Aah... thanks for everything...
WE PUSHED OUR WAY THROUGH THE CROWD AND REACHED THE AUDITORIUM.

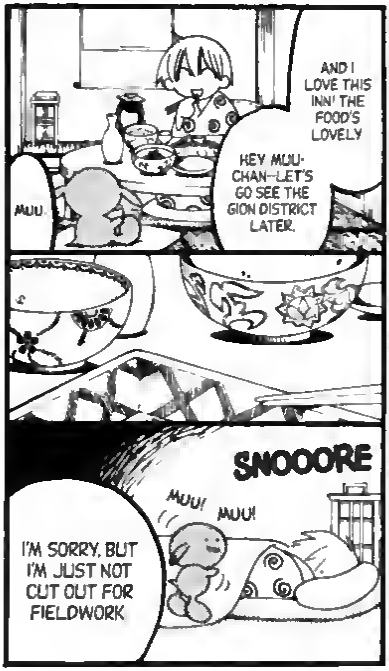

Wow...it's a five-story pagoda tower!
THE FIRST THING WE WENT TO WAS TOJI TEMPLE OF THE SHINGON-MIKKYOU SECT.
IT'S A TEMPLE THAT KOUBOU DAISHI (KUUKAI) BASED HIS DOJO IN.

tactics 5


THEY'RE THE PRINCIPLE OBJECTS OF WORSHIP IN MIKKYOU.
Yamantaka (Daitoku) Associated with the west, and possesses the moral character of great power.
Kundali (Gundari) Associated with the south and the removing of all obstacles
Acalanatha (FUUDOU) The main leader of the Five Great Gods, Supreme Buddha Kongou Haramitsu bosatsu and the Mikkyou "IssaisHobutsu"'s religious laws.
Vajrayaksa (Kongou Yasha) Associated with the north, the one who blows away evil and prays for good health.
Trailokyavi-Jaya (Gouzen) Victorious over the three worlds of poverty, truth, and ignorance.
THEY'RE THE FIVE GREAT GODS IN SHINGON-MIKKYOU BELIEF
WHAT ARE THE MYOU-SAMAS, YOU ASK?
MUU!


MUU...
ドク ドク ドク
ZOUNOS! THEY OPENED UP THE KANCHIIN?! OH FIVE GREAT BOOHISATTVA BOSATSU-SAMA!


THE NEXT MORN-ING.
WE WENT TO JOUBOUN RENOAIJI TEMPLE.
上品蓮臺寺

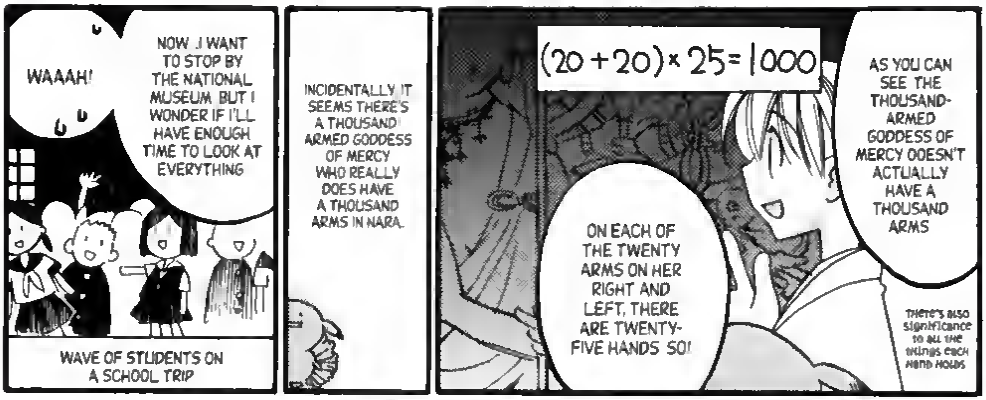

MUU
AND I LOVE THIS INN! THE FOOD'S LOVELY
HEY MUU-CHAN--LET'S GO SEE THE GION DISTRICT LATER.
SNOOORE
MUU! MUU!
I'M SORRY, BUT I'M JUST NOT CUT OUT FOR FIELDWORK

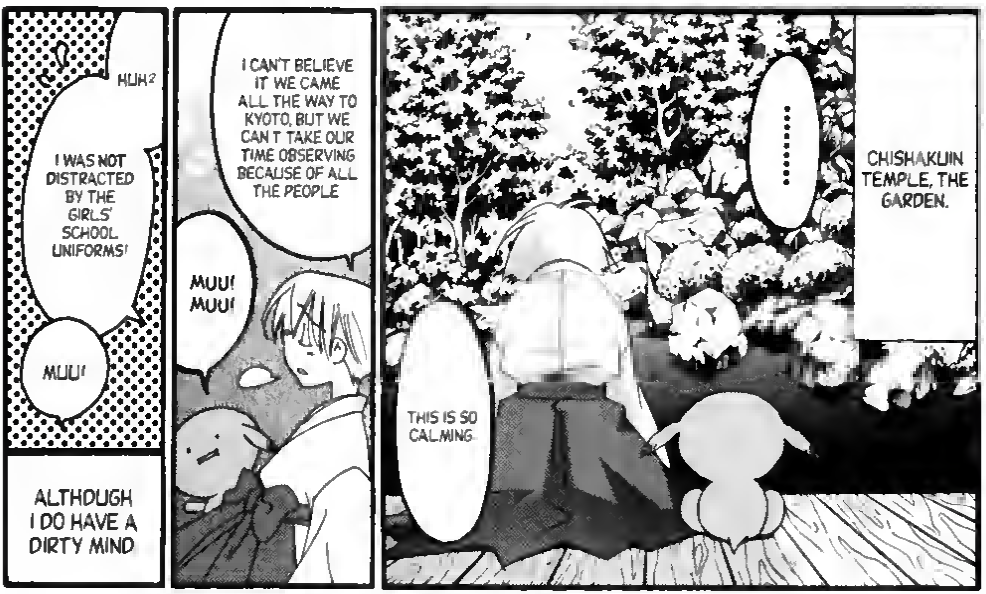
THE INN.
WE SURE GOT A LOT OF GOOD RESEARCH TODAY

WANDER
WANDER
WANDER
WANDER
NOBODY'S HERE.
I can't find it.
EMPTY
...HUNH. I HEARD THIS IS WHERE WE'D FIND THE "SPIDER MOUND"...
...OF THE HEIAN-ERA YOUKAI BUSTER MINAMOTO NO YORIMITSU, BUT...
Window of Enlightenment
THIS EXPERIENCE AFFECTS ME DEEPLY
BUT I'M NOT DEPRESSED
Window of Going Astray
HUH...
NO I'M NOT DEPRESSED REALLY SINCE WE CAME ALL THE WAY HERE, LET'S GO TO GENKOUAN
MUUU...
THE ORACLE TOLD HIM THAT THE SKULL OF THE EMPEROR'S PREVIOUS EXISTENCE AS A PRIEST NAMED RENGE WAS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER--AND WHEN HE DRUDGED THE RIVER, HE DID FIND A SKULL. SO "RENGE" BECAME THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME
THE OFFICIAL NAME OF THIS PLACE IS ACTUALLY RENGEOUIN. ONCE, THE OLD EMPEROR GOSHIRAKAWA JOUKOU DREAMT ABOUT AN ORACLE.
NOW THAT I'VE REGROUPED...
...TO THE THIRTY-THREE GENDOU!

tactics 5

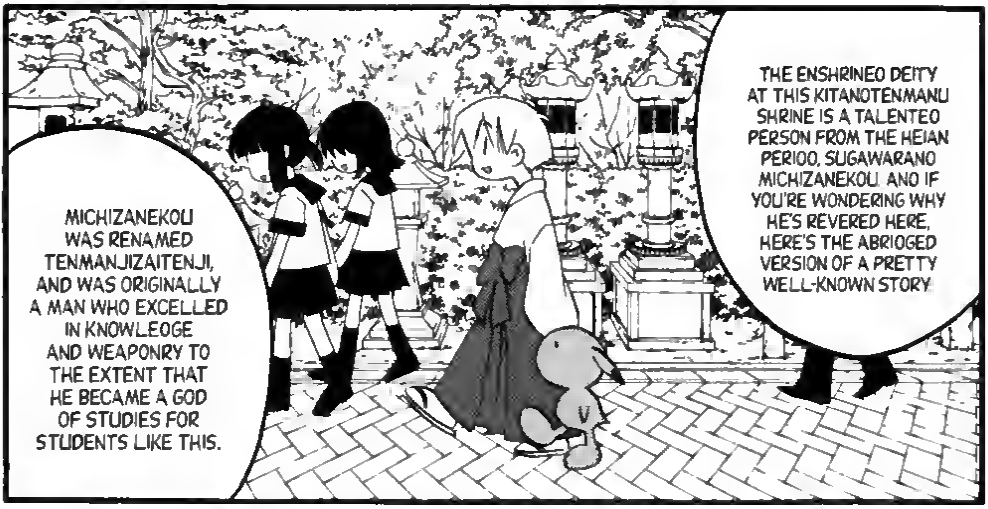
IT'S COMMONLY KNOWN THAT THE TEMPLE IS CALLED "THE THIRTY-THREE GENDOU" BECAUSE IT HAS A WIDTH OF THIRTY-THREE PILLARS AT AN INTERVAL OF 1.8 METERS.
あぜん…
ONCE INSIDE THE 1000 THOUSAND-ARMED GODDESSES OF MERCY WERE AN INCREDIBLE SIGHT!

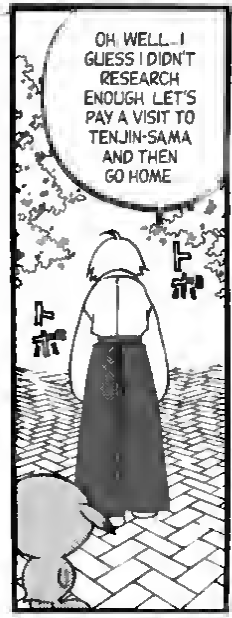

WAAAH!
NOW I WANT TO STOP BY THE NATIONAL MUSEUM. BUT I WONDER IF I'LL HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO LOOK AT EVERYTHING
WAVE OF STUDENTS ON A SCHOOL TRIP
INCIDENTALLY, IT SEEMS THERE'S A THOUSAND ARMED GODDESS OF MERCY WHO REALLY DOES HAVE A THOUSAND ARMS IN NARA.
(20+20)×25=1000
ON EACH OF THE TWENTY ARMS ON HER RIGHT AND LEFT, THERE ARE TWENTY-FIVE HANDS SO!
AS YOU CAN SEE THE THOUSAND-ARMED GODDESS OF MERCY DOESN'T ACTUALLY HAVE A THOUSAND ARMS
There's also significance to all the things each hand holds


HUH?
I WAS NOT DISTRACTED BY THE GIRLS' SCHOOL UNIFORMS!
MUU!
ALTHOUGH I DO HAVE A DIRTY MIND
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT WE CAME ALL THE WAY TO KYOTO, BUT WE CAN'T TAKE OUR TIME OBSERVING BECAUSE OF ALL THE PEOPLE
MUU! MUU!
……
CHISHAKUIN TEMPLE, THE GARDEN.
THIS IS SO CALMING.

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED, RESEARCH IT... BUT EVEN I DON'T HAVE THE COURAGE TO WRITE ABOUT IT MAN THOSE JAPANESE...
STUMBLED UPON MIMIZUKA.
HM?
LET'S BUY A FAN FOR THE PROFESSOR WHO TOOK SUCH GOOD CARE OF ME AT THAT SEMINAR
TOMORROW'S THE DAY WE GO TO GION!
THAT NIGHT
nyum nyum
GIO... N...
THE MORNING OF THE THIRD DAY IN KYOTO
KITANO-TENMANGU SHRINE
THIS IS THE LAST DAY! I SWEAR WE'RE GOING TO FIND YORIMITSU!

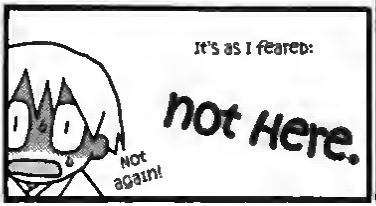
tactics 5


MICHIZANEKOU WAS RENAMED TENMANJIZAITENJI, AND WAS ORIGINALLY A MAN WHO EXCELLED IN KNOWLEDGE AND WEAPONRY TO THE EXTENT THAT HE BECAME A GOD OF STUDIES FOR STUDENTS LIKE THIS.
THE ENSHRINED DEITY AT THIS KITANOTENMANU SHRINE IS A TALENTED PERSON FROM THE HEIAN PERIOD, SUGAWARANO MICHIZANEKOU. AND IF YOU'RE WONDERING WHY HE'S REVERED HERE, HERE'S THE ABRIDGED VERSION OF A PRETTY WELL-KNOWN STORY.

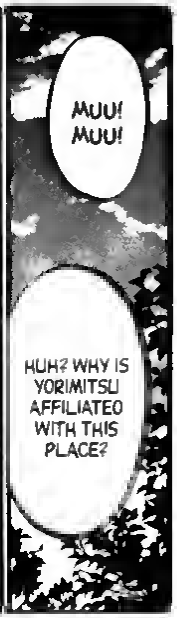

OH WELL... I GUESS I DIDN'T RESEARCH ENOUGH. LET'S PAY A VISIT TO TENJIN-SAMA AND THEN GO HOME.

WANDER
WANDER

WANDER
WANDER


It's as I feared:
not Here.
Not again!

I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THAT MYSELF, BUT A BOOK I READ SAID THAT THE "GENKOUAN" IS AROUND HERE.
LET'S GO FIND IT!

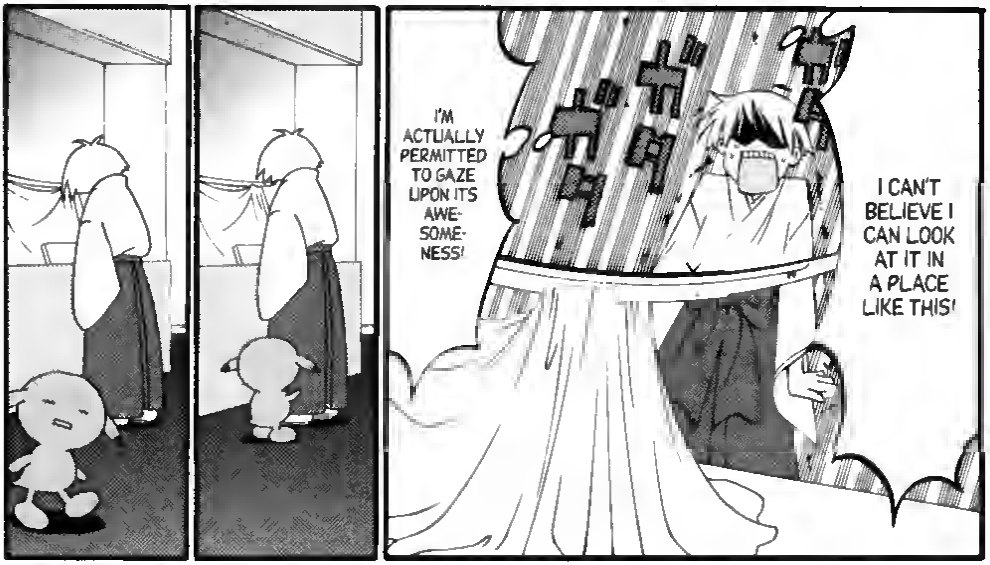

MUU! MUU!
HUH? WHY IS YORIMITSU AFFILIATED WITH THIS PLACE?

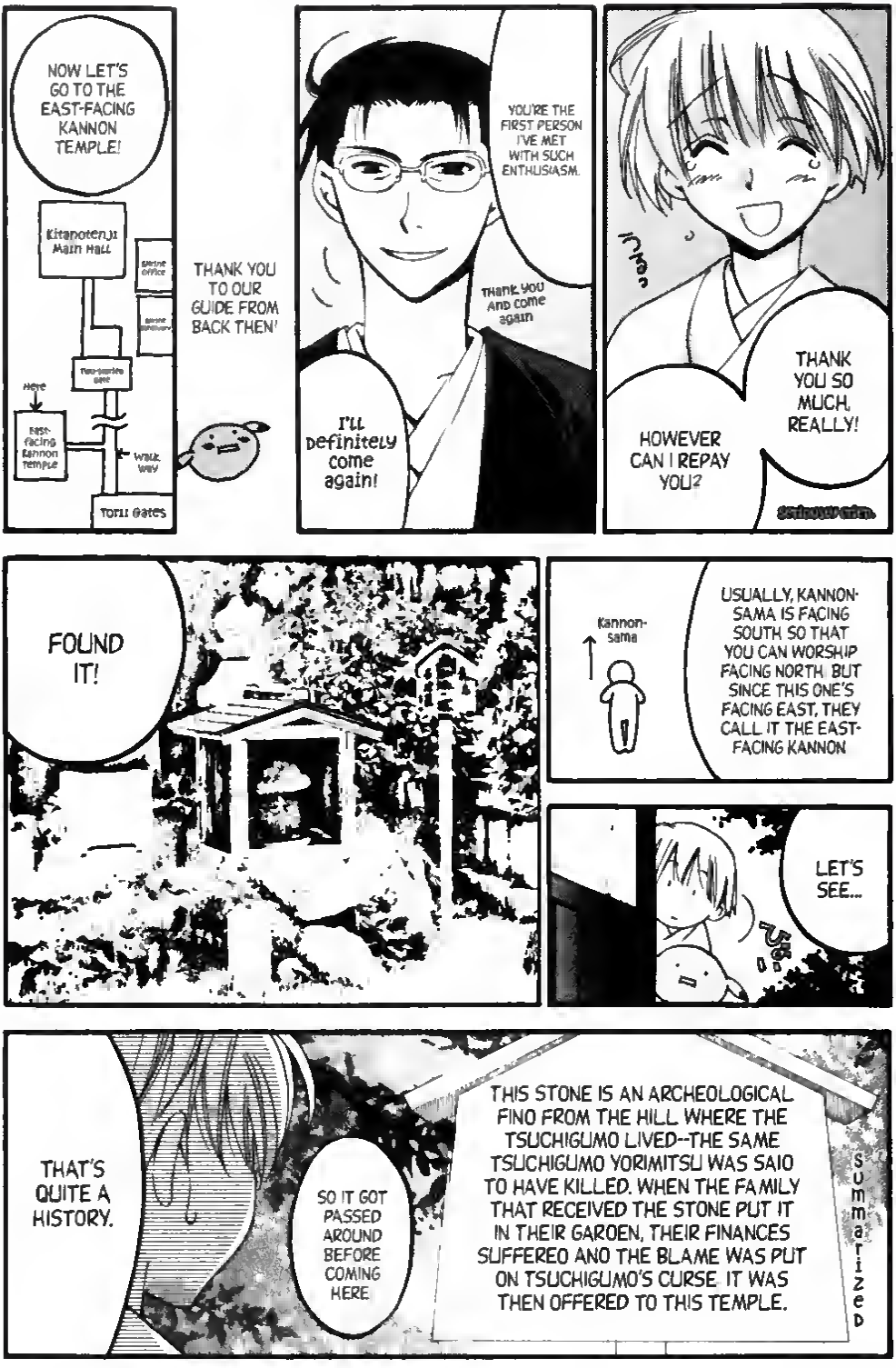
AAH!

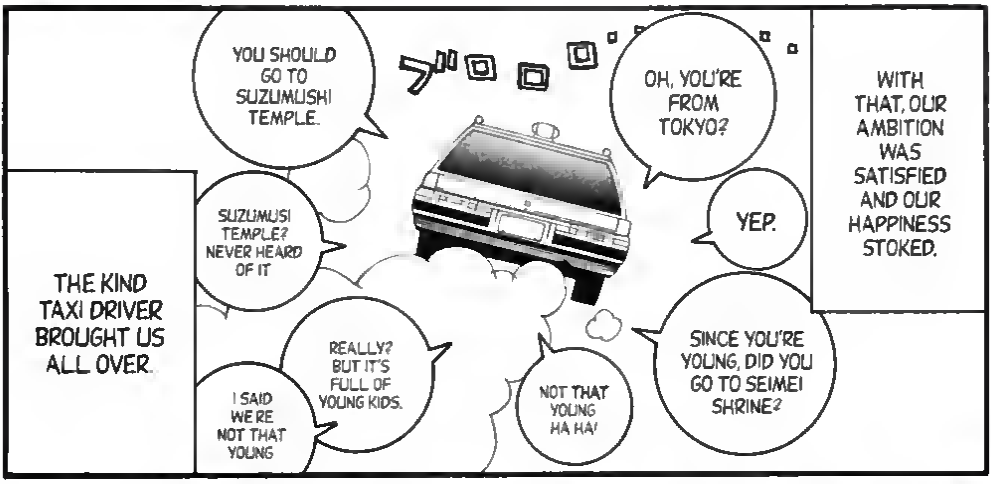
MUU!
HM?

SHRINE SANCTUARY
EXCUSE ME.
WEL-COME
NOW I FEEL SATISFIED WE CAN GO AFTER WE SEE THE SHRINE SANCTUARY
THANK YOU, TENJIN-SAMA.
CLAP
CLAP
I CAN'T BELIEVE I GET TO SEE HIS NAME HERE!
IT'S ONE OF THE FOUR DEVAS THAT MINAMOTO NO YORIMITSU SERVED, TSUNA WATANABE-SAN!
HOW MOVING!
ER, CAN YOU HELP ME?
I HEARD THAT YORIMITSU'S MOUND IS AROUND HERE
INDEED IT IS.
fret fret
!
HAS TOUHAKU HASEGAWA'S VOTIVE PICTURE ON IT.
THIS BIG BELL...
SWEET
THANKS. OFF I GO!
GRAB
WAIT. IF YOU LIKE YORIMITSU-SAN, I HAVE SOMETHING NICE TO SHOW YOU.
HUH?
I THINK IT'S IN THE EAST-FACING KANNON TEMPLE.
SO IT'S NOT ON THE GROUNDS OF THE KITANOTEN-MANGUU?
THAT'S WHY I COULDN'T FIND IT
BLUNT

THE ONIKIRI-MARU.
THE MINAMOTO FAMILY HEIRLOOM SWORD
YASUTSUNA!!
THE DOUJIKIRI...


I'M ACTUALLY PERMITTED TO GAZE UPON ITS AWE-SOME-NESS!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I CAN LOOK AT IT IN A PLACE LIKE THIS!

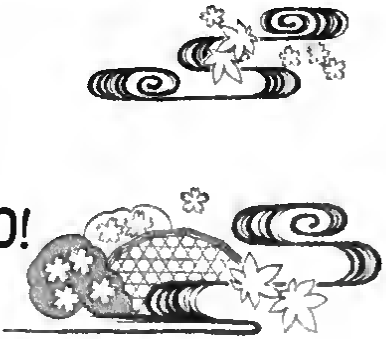

NOW LET'S GO TO THE EAST-FACING KANNON TEMPLE!
Kitanotenji Main Hall
Shrine office
Shrine Belfry
Two-storied gate
Here
East-facing Kannon Temple
Walk way
Torii Gates
THANK YOU TO OUR GUIDE FROM BACK THEN!
YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON I'VE MET WITH SUCH ENTHUSIASM.
Thank you and come again
I'll definitely come again!
HOWEVER CAN I REPAY YOU?
THANK YOU SO MUCH, REALLY!
FOUND IT!
Kannon-sama
USUALLY, KANNON-SAMA IS FACING SOUTH SO THAT YOU CAN WORSHIP FACING NORTH. BUT SINCE THIS ONE'S FACING EAST, THEY CALL IT THE EAST-FACING KANNON
LET'S SEE...
THAT'S QUITE A HISTORY.
SO IT GOT PASSED AROUND BEFORE COMING HERE
THIS STONE IS AN ARCHEOLOGICAL FIND FROM THE HILL WHERE THE TSUCHIGUMO LIVED--THE SAME TSUCHIGUMO YORIMITSU WAS SAID TO HAVE KILLED. WHEN THE FAMILY THAT RECEIVED THE STONE PUT IT IN THEIR GARDEN, THEIR FINANCES SUFFERED AND THE BLAME WAS PUT ON TSUCHIGUMO'S CURSE. IT WAS THEN OFFERED TO THIS TEMPLE.
Summarized


THE KIND TAXI DRIVER BROUGHT US ALL OVER.
YOU SHOULD GO TO SUZUMUSHI TEMPLE.
SUZUMUSI TEMPLE? NEVER HEARD OF IT
I SAID WE'RE NOT THAT YOUNG
REALLY? BUT IT'S FULL OF YOUNG KIDS.
NOT THAT YOUNG HA HA!
OH, YOU'RE FROM TOKYO?
YEP.
SINCE YOU'RE YOUNG, DID YOU GO TO SEIMEI SHRINE?
WITH THAT, OUR AMBITION WAS SATISFIED AND OUR HAPPINESS STOKED.

OH... RIGHT.
UH-OH.
SINCE YOU'RE GOING TO BE WRITING ABOUT DOUJOUJI SOON, WHY DIDN'T YOU DO THE USUAL TEMPLE VISIT TO MYOUMANJI?
CRUNCH
IT TURNS OUT KYOTO DOESN'T HATE ME!
HARUKA!
Yasutsuna... the Yasutsuna...!
ARRIVING AT HOME

IN THE END, AFTER RESEARCHING IT AT HOME, IT SEEMS THE "SPIDER MOUND" IS IN FACT IN RENDAIJI. WE WERE BAD AT FINDING IT. NEXT TIME, WE WANT TO BUILD UP OUR PHYSICAL ENDURANCE AND HIT KURAMA TEMPLE, TOO!

WE'RE GOING AGAIN! TO KYOTO!



tactics 5 THE END

Hello, everyone. This is Sakura Kinoshita. Thank you so much for buying *Tactics* volume 5. I can't believe we're this far already. Score! I finally got to write the true person behind the mysterious character that is Edwards-shi. Good luck, Edwards! Tactics is a marsh where all these bad guys keep coming out, but I won't forget to keep the lighthearted elements in place--so please look forward to volume 6. It's coming right up!

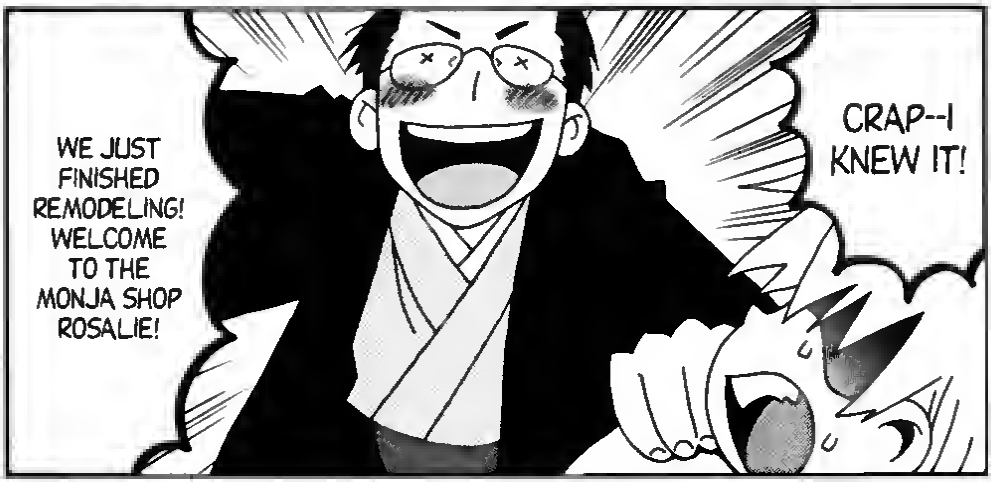
September 2004
Sakura Kinoshita

Tactics Volume 5 Limited Edition Drama CD

This is the first scene from it. After the recording was done, I couldn't take it anymore and went to eat monja at Tsukishima (Ha Ha!).

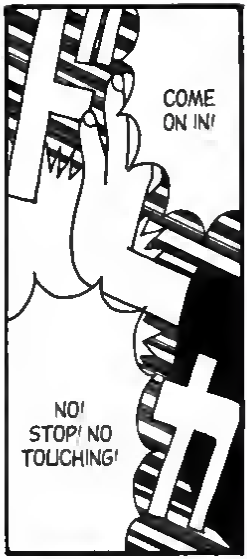
Starting on the next page is the continuation manga of what happens in the drama CD.
It's just a lot of silliness, so don't go asking, "Why's Hasumi working at a monja restaurant?!" and the like...best regards!

HUH? WHAT'S THAT FEEL LIKE?
THINK ABOUT IT! WHEN IT COMES TO FOOOS LIKE LATE NIGHT RAMEN AND SUMMER CURRY RICE, THINKING "I COULD GO FOR SOME OF THAT" IS THE BEGINNING OF THE END. THAT'S HOW I FEEL ABOUT MONJA.
IT'S LIKE SOMETHING'S MISSING, AND I CAN'T CALM DOWN, MY HEART FEELS LIKE A PUZZLE WITH A VITAL PIECE LOST IN THE BOX
THAT'S WHAT IT'S LIKE WHEN YOU'RE RAISED ON THE WRONG SIDE OF THE TRACKS. IT'S LIKE I'VE GOT A FEVER, AND THE ONLY CURE IS MONJA.
AT ANY RATE, WHO AM I TALKING TO?
AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHERE'S A MONJA SHOP?
WHY DO I CARE SO MUCH ABOUT MONJA, YOU ASK?
BAH. SINCE I DIDN'T GET MY SHARE OF MONJA YET...
...TODAY I'M GETTING HOT AND HEAVY WITH THE STUFF
I'LL GO ELSEWHERE
Rusle
Rusle
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
Monja Rosalie
Monja
Monja
?!
grab


WE JUST FINISHED REMODELING! WELCOME TO THE MONJA SHOP ROSALIE!
CRAP--I KNEW IT!

YOU AGAIN? SPARE ME.
I KNEW IT! NOOOOO!

IT'S TOO MUCH TROUBLE TO BUS TWO TABLES, SO SHARE A BOOTH WITH THIS OTHER CUSTOMER
HUH?
WHA?


COME ON IN!
NO! STOP! NO TOUCHING!

MOJOJO
MOJOJO
SIZZLE
SIZZLE
Monja Youkai!!

WHO'S HASUMI? ANYWAY, YOU'RE AN EXORCIST, RIGHT?
WHAT DO YOU WANT HASUMI ?!
HOW'D YOU KNOW THAT?
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.

GRAB
I'M GOING HOME!
PLEASE WAIT CUSTOMER!

IF IT'S A YOUKAI EXORCISM YOU WANT, I'M A NATIONALLY CERTIFIED EXORCIST!
MOUNU
YOU'VE GOT YOURSELF A DEAL, SIR!
I'LL GIVE YOU FREE FOOD FOR LIFE AS A REWARD, BY THE WAY.
HM?
WHO'S THIS LITTLE GUY?
IT'S A MONJA YOUKAI NAMED "MONJAA." WOULD YOU PLEASE EXORCISE IT FOR ME?
MOUNU
MOUNU
IT BURNS!
GYAAAAHI
YOU'RE MINE, PIP-SQUEAK!
YOU DAMNED LITTLE...
MOUNU
AS YOU CAN SEE, IT PRETENDS TO BE NORMAL MONJA, BUT THEN PULLS PRANKS ON CUSTOMERS IT'S VERY INCONVENIENT
THAT'S.. GREAT.

MOJAAA MOJAAA!
THIS LOOKS LIKE A TURF WAR! INTERESTING
THIS IS MY JOB BOYO SIT BACK AND ENJOY THE SHOW
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM?! POINT THAT AT THE YOUKAI!
YOU TOOK MY ANTI-MOVEMENT SPELL!
AGH!
FUDOUM YOUOU NO GOFUKAKU KORE NI SUGIZU!
TARATAKANMAN BISHI BISHI BAKUSOWAKA.
RINNEI
ZAI ZEN !!
CHIN RETSU KAI
TOU-SHA
MOJAAAAAA!
THAT WAS FAST.
SPLAT
SIZZZZZZLE
THERE. NOW FOR THE EXORCISM.

RAIKOU-SAMA! WHY DID YOU SNEAK AWAY TO A PLACE LIKE THIS?!
IT'S THE DUTY OF I, SUEKICHINOBU WATANABE, TO--
THEN LET'S SEE WHO CAN CHANT THE EVIL SPIRIT TRANSFORMATION SPELL FASTEST!
Hell-- you're already free?!
LET ME, ASS-HOLE!
OH--YOU'RE WORKING SINCEREST APOLOGIES.
HUH?
ARE THOSE TWO DONE YET?
He ate Him!
I'M SORRY BUT I THOUGHT I COULD END THIS
AND WITH THAT I GRANT YOU A FOREVER-FREE TICKET FOR THIS SHOP!
THE END

Sorry it was all the guys. Hope to see you in Volume 6!

IN THE NEXT VOLUME OF

tactics

Haruka is ready to finish his fight with Father Edwards after helping Kantaro, when Minamoto shows up takes the man away from the fight! In turn, Haruka goes to the Minamoto estate to try to pry some answers out of the man, however, he ends up with more questions when he runs into someone unexpected...

Language and Culture Notes on Tactics!

Kiyohime Stage

~The suffix "tan" a cute version of "-chan" which already denotes endearment and preciousness

~ Gidayuu: a form of ballad drama that started as the narration and song from the puppet theatre, accompanied by shomisen. When these dramatic recitations are performed by young girls, it's called musume gidayuu.

~Doujouji Genzai Urako: a bunraku play that premiered in 1742. The story is covered quite extensively in this chapter of the manga

~Miranai: "To learn through observation." A young maiko will train by watching her geisha mentor. This is also how classical Japanese theatre or music is also taught

~Hydra: the word used in the original volume was "nue," which is a Japanese chimera.

~"Badgers of the same hole": this idiom is equivalent to the English "villains of the same stripe." In Japan, a badger is called a mujina (or anaguma), and isn't to be confused with a tanuki

~Nekomata: a fantastic feline with a forked tail

~Jami: the name of a serpentine youkai

~Shirouneri: a youkai that transforms from inorganic materials like the moisture that ferments on dishtowels in the kitchen.

~Kappa and cucumbers: According to Japanese lore, Kappa love cucumbers. That's why cucumber rolls are called "Kappa Maki"!

Kanbarinyuudou Stage

~Kokkuri-san: the Japanese equivalent of the Ouji Board

~Kanbarinyuudou: a Japanese "god of the privy (bathroom)" in charge of making the toilet a safe place

~Kimon: the northeastern direction. It is often considered unlucky.

~Dry Tenmon: tenmon means "heavenly gate."

~Animals on the map: represent signs of the Chinese zodiac. Each sign also has a corresponding time of day and a month.

~Waka: 31-syllable poems

~Haniyasu: a female god of earth. Mizuhanome is a male god of water

~Mikkyou: Esoteric Buddhist teachings. Ususamamyouou is a deity of Mikkyou and Zen sects who is enshrined in impure places (like the privy) and has the power to burn up and exhaust impurities.

~"On bishibishi karakaro shibari sowaka": a binding spell

~Shugendou: a Japanese mountain asceticism-shamanism incorporating Shinto and Buddhist concepts

Kyoto trip

~Koubou Daishi: named "Kuukai" posthumously. He was the founder of esoteric Shingon Buddhism in Japan during the Heian period.

~Mimizuka: a monument in Kyoto dedicated to the Seven-Year War fought against Korea from 1592-1598. The name translates to Ear Mound, and the monument enshrines the ears and noses of approximately 38,000 Koreans killed during that time

~When praying at a shrine: ring bell, clap twice, bow and pray silently, then clap twice to close prayer.

~Tsuchigumo: Earth Spider, a creature of legend. Also refers to a historical tribe of Early Japan

~Seimei Shrine: a shrine in Kyoto dedicated to the Heian-era yin-yang master, Abe no Seimei. He is the protagonist of the "Onmyouji" film series, and a common figure in popular culture.

~Monja is like okonomiyaki, where you can make the pizza-like batter-veggie-meat dish together on the grill provided at your table.